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ISSUE
No 65 | **May 2023**

PLAYBOY

Black Sex Workers Matter

Why you should care about what the adult industry is doing in this moment

BY **ANITA LITTLE**

Tonight, adult industry heavyweights Lotus Lain and Ana Foxxx will be taking over Playboy's Instagram Live platform to talk about race, an issue that's been at the forefront of everyone's mind for the past several weeks (assuming you're white, of course—a reminder that black people think about race their entire lives). Porn is a billion-dollar industry with countless consumers, and yet so much of what happens in the industry is under-examined due to our society's skittish attitude toward sex.

That means racism, along with sexism and a lot of other p'isms,' has been allowed to fester unchecked. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests sweeping the globe, many industries from tech to publishing are facing a well-deserved reckoning, and the adult space has been no different. First it was a trickle of stories from black performers about navigating discrimination and marginalization in the industry. Then that trickle turned into a flood as black performer after black performer started calling out the industry's shortcomings when it came to addressing anti-black racism. In advance of the panel we're hosting with Lain and Foxxx, we wanted to give you five reasons why you should be paying attention to what the porn industry does in this moment.

When we say black lives matter, it doesn't just mean the black lives that society finds respectable, it means black lives period, and that includes black sex workers.

1. Racial hierarchies in porn help to perpetuate racial hierarchies in our daily lives through the politics of desirability.

Black features have long stood outside of society's accepted definition of beauty, and most of the narratives that we've constructed around what is attractive or desirable center whiteness. Psychological studies have proven that from a young age, we're all programmed by our environment to see lighter skin as more favorable and see darker skin as a"the other." The common practice of prominent white actresses in porn being paid significantly more than their usual rate to do an "interracial" scene with a black man or refusing to work with black men at all is a prime example of this. "Interracial" in the adult industry almost always refers to a white or white-adjacent female actress doing a scene with a black man, setting up a spectrum of value that places a premium on being a white woman and dehumanizes blackness.

2. When porn is such an economic and cultural behemoth and gets a free pass to be racist, it encourages other industries to follow suit.

Part of the reason that racist tropes in adult content are overlooked is that the entire industry markets itself on the taboo. Whatever your kink is, there will likely be a couple thousand results that pop up when you type it into Pornhub's search bar. Into toes? Slapping? Felching? There's a scene for you. And though there's nothing wrong with having sexual kinks, there is something wrong when racism is your sexual kink. Not just porn producers but porn consumers have to bear responsibility for the glut of racially offensively porn. Consumers decide the market, and the porn market should be treated no different from other markets. If your favorite television show started spewing out racist jokes or scenes that played into stereotypes, you would likely stop watching that show. When porn consumers accept and thereby normalize racism in the industry, we give up our power to impact change in how capitalistic industries operate.

3. Racism in porn serves to keep black performers underpaid and siloed into limiting categories.

When a black performer does any type of scene, it can be guaranteed that the marketing copy will heavily emphasize their race, often in crass ways. When white women perform an anal scene, it gets to just be called an anal scene. But when a black woman does it, suddenly it's an all-caps p"big booty ebony whore begs for anal" or some other equally demeaning caption that capitalizes on harmful stereotypes about black women's sexuality. Whiteness gets to be the sexual default, while blackness is siloed into a fetishized subcategory. This dichotomy makes it easy for studios to tokenize or outright reject black performers due to their race or compensate them less than their white counterparts.

4. It also puts black female performers at a heightened risk for sexual harassment or exploitation.

As a direct result of centuries of racially supremacist conditioning, white women are inherently seen as delicate, innocent and worthier of protection. Black women have been socio-historically robbed of their femininity or womanhood, and are often expected to be p"stronger" or more tolerant of abuse. This can create a hostile professional environment for black actresses who often walk onto porn sets with less negotiating power and more vulnerability. A predatory producer might feel more comfortable crossing boundaries with a black actress that they would never try with a white actress. This isn't to say that white women don't encounter discrimination or sexual violence in the porn industry, but when they do, it's not because of their race.

5. We should fundamentally care about all sex workers because sex worker rights are human rights.

Sex workers are already devalued in society, and mistreatment of them is often characterized as an p"occupational hazard" that they should just accept. It's why anti-sex worker legislation like SESTA-FOSTA is able to pass with no one batting an eyelash even though it disproportionately puts sex workers of color, LGBT sex workers and trans sex workers in greater danger. When we say black lives matter, it doesn't just mean the black lives that society finds respectable, it means black lives period, and that includes black sex workers.

Michael Jordan

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DAVID ROSE**

His Most Supreme Airness discusses team hygiene, trash talk and having Bill Murray as a golf coach

BY **KEVIN COOK**

Last year Michael Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to their fourth NBA title in six years. (They lost when he played baseball.) He won his eighth scoring title and his fourth MVP award. Earth's most famous jock also starred in Space Jam, becoming the only human to work with both Bugs Bunny and Dennis Rodman. He did it with ease and antigrav grace, as usual. For Jordan, superhuman feats are no sweat. So why does he need Michael Jordan cologne?

We sent Contributing Editor Kevin Cook to the Rodeo Drive suites of fragrancier Bijan to ask.

"I didn't smell anything, but the air did change when Jordan entered the room. He is regal. Pleasant and sometimes funny, too, but his presence has a bouquet of magnificence. He is in charge of every detail. At one point Bijan barged in; the cologne pooh-bah was worried about a photo of Jordan for an ad campaign.

p'What's missing?' Jordan asked.

p'Your energy, your statement of you,' said Bijan. p"Michael studied the photo for about two seconds. 'It's fine,' he said. End of crisis.

"I couldn't help noticing the official Michael Jordan soap displayed beside his cologne. It was thick as a brick and almost as long."

Q1: Why is your soap so big?
JORDAN: Look at my hand. It's huge, isn't it? So I need a big bar of soap. And I'm not the only one—my teammates need something big to wash their butts with.

Q2: Do you intend to freshen up the NBA's locker rooms?
JORDAN: Starting with my team. I think Scottie Pippen wears Dunhill, but I'll change him over. If I can just get Scottie to try Michael Jordan cologne, he'll come around. Dennis Rodman? I'll give him some, but I don't think he'll use it.

Q3: Is Dennis Rodman more of a Chanel guy?
JORDAN: Dennis is totally different. I never question his attire or his hygiene. I don't infringe on him. He has ways of expressing himself that I don't agree with, but that's Dennis, and we let it go. I would be opposed to seeing him in makeup or a dress on the basketball court. And as far as him playing naked, I just hope I'm not on the court.

Q4: Tell us your fragrance history. Did you ever use Hai Karate?
JORDAN: Sure. I went through Old Spice, Hai Karate—but what I really remember is the smelly stuff my father used to wear, English Leather. The fatherly cologne, yeah, with that wooden top. Sneaking some of his English Leather, spraying it on myself, I'll never forget that.

Q5: Fans love Bugs Bunny, your Space Jam co-star, but we've heard he can be difficult. Did he pay you a common actor's courtesy—showing up to read his lines when he's off camera, so you can react to his delivery?
JORDAN: No. He always sent his double. It made it a little tougher for me, but that's the big time, man. You can do that when you've been a star for 60 or 70 years.

> "You can call Charles Barkley a great second place finisher."

Q6: What made you laugh on the movie set?
JORDAN: Joe Pytka, who directed Space Jam, thinks he's a basketball player. But he can't play. So I played a lot with him and some of the extras. Joe was asking how it really is in the NBA, so I made it physical. Now these extras, they're not just actors, they're basketball players, too, and it got a little rough. Somebody throws an elbow and—boom—breaks an extra's nose. I was laughing because it was so timely. That's how it is, Joe.

Q7: Let's talk about trash talk. Is it true that Charles Barkley is the funniest talker and Seattle's Gary Payton is the nastiest?
JORDAN: Charles is funny. He kids me about endorsing everything from cologne to underwear. It's a way to get in your head. But if you know Charles, it doesn't bother you. If you've had success over him, you can throw it right back. You can call him a great second place finisher. Payton is young and brash. He's good. Maybe he talks, but not to me. Still, I could sense the challenge coming off him in the playoffs last year. It's fun when you feel that challenge from a younger player. You have to respond. This is somebody who wants to gain the respect you already have. And maybe he will. It's just that you don't want it to happen this year. That's one of the things that keeps me going.

Q8: How much do you talk on the court?
JORDAN: I am constantly trying to get an edge. There are a lot of mental challenges. Maybe a guy expects me to drive, but I pull up for a jump shot. I might say, g"This could go on all night." Or tell him he can't guard me. I might ask him a question. "How many do you want me to score?"

Q9: How does it feel when you're airborne?
JORDAN: It's an act of creativity. You make it up as it goes along. I see things before they happen, things that might

happen, and then alter them—adjust, dish off. It all seems very slow to me, but it might not to you.

Q10: Why are NBA players such sharp dressers?

JORDAN: There are probably more sweaters and jeans in baseball. In a basketball locker room the guys are putting on suits. There's more style, more trendsetting. Here's my theory: It's because people see us wearing shorts all the time. We're so visible on the basketball court, running around in our shorts, that we want to compensate when the game's over.

Q11: Three years ago you quit hoops to try baseball, a more contemplative game. How did you kill all the downtime?

JORDAN: You'll do anything to bide time while waiting for your turn in the batting cage, waiting out a rain delay or riding in the bus. I learned to play hearts, and I also played checkers and dominoes. I filled a book of crosswords. And I listened to some funny arguments. The guys on my minor-league team, most were 21 or younger, and they'd go on about TV shows. Not about whether the show was good. They'd argue about what time it was on. g"It's on at seven!" "No, 7:30!" I was thinking, Man, this makes me feel old.

Q12: What else about joining the Birmingham Barons was tough on the world's greatest athlete?

JORDAN: Hitting. It's hard. And then I'd see some of those kids staying out till three or four in the morning, drinking beer like water, and the next day they'd go four for five.

Q13: Did you chew tobacco?

JORDAN: Not this time. I tried it back in high school baseball—peer pressure—and got a little sick. So in the minor leagues I stuck to sunflower seeds. I'd spit them all over the dugout, practicing my accuracy. We played basketball that way, spitting seeds at a Gatorade cup. I got better at it, but not to a professional level.

I still think baseball is the greatest fun, the best camaraderie you can have. When a basketball game is over, it's zip-zip, 12 guys out the door in different directions. The camaraderie in baseball, at least in the minors, was unbelievable—10 or 12 players hanging out together every night. I still keep in touch with some of those guys.

Q14: Every minor-league ballplayer knows how to rewire a motel TV to steal premium cable. Did you?

JORDAN: No, I can afford to pay. But nobody else was ordering movies; they were saving their money. That's why my room was the team theater. All the guys came in to watch the movie with me.

Q15: What's your dream foursome for golf?

JORDAN: Can I say five? Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Davis Love III, Ben Hogan and me. We play skins, and nobody wins a skin unless he knocks a hole in one.

Here's a real group: me, Larry Bird and Bill Murray. We've played a few times. Talk about talk—Bill is a player, a commentator and a damn coach all at once. It's just like Caddyshack. He'll be teeing off and giving the play-by-play on what club he's using, what kind of shot he wants to play. He does it while you're playing, too.

Q16: Can you be psyched out on the course?

JORDAN: Sometimes. There's a lot of reverse psychology on a golf course. My short game is probably the best part of my game, but I'll hit the tee ball anywhere. So mostly the attacks come when I'm teeing off. A guy will drop a tidbit: g"Michael, there's water on the right. Make sure you go left." It's that simple—golf is such a mental game that you can't block it out. I'll be trying to focus on a good swing, but if you have to think about focusing, your concentration's not there, is it? Golf does that to you. Think about the negative and you're in trouble. You're in the water.

Q17: Why do white guys look so bad with shaved heads?

JORDAN: [*Laughing*] I guess it has to do with tanning. They've never tanned that part of their damn bodies, so the head stands out a little.

Q18: When you were 15, you got cut from your high school basketball team. What do you remember about that moment?

JORDAN: Looking at the list on the bulletin board. I looked through it four or five times. My name wasn't there. I went immediately to question the coach. I thought he was wrong. But it didn't help. Years later, I thought about that when I saw my name in the newspaper. It was when the Bulls won the first championship. Everyone said an NBA scoring champion couldn't win the NBA title, but I'd just done it. There it was in the paper. So I proved everyone wrong. That's one of my strong points.

Q19: Fifteen years ago this spring, as a freshman at North Carolina, you won the NCAA tourney with a last-second jumper from the corner. Did you know it was going in?

JORDAN: It felt good, but I was fading away, the defense was coming. I never saw it go in. I knew from the crowd, hearing the crowd noise. That was the beginning of Michael Jordan.

Q20: Was Shaquille O'Neal joking when he told us that you really can fly?

JORDAN: People can fly. Some fly higher than others, that's all.

Model **@ Sommie.lopez**

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PR **LA Media Group | @Lamediagroup**

EVOLOSKYSCRAPERS

EVOLO SKYSCRAPERS

How do u like to begin your day? Starting my day off with Matcha tea or coffee, ginger shot, avocado and croissant, boil brown egg then after breakfast, stretch to flex the muscles and hamstrings then off to my morning walk at sunrise about 6:30 am, habitual routine for me to clean and organized everything around the house burn candles and incense to set a calm mood and my routine skin care and hair care starting to do yoga this year to keep a balance in my life I believe it works to keep everything aligned spiritually and zen.

What are biggest dreams you hope to achieve? To be an actress on a network Tubi or Netflix and Indie Films, Starz or the big screen, starting my clothing line that is coming out soon I think I will be a great fit on fashion has changed in the world how clothing is very versatile for men and women, textures and prints and full of iridescent colours in my collection.

What helps you decompress and relax? A glass red wine Dark Horse or Bellacosa listens Sade -album" The best of Sade" put on silk robe just take a moment to breathe and exhale eliminate the stress freely away from me and to have a space where u can unwind is perfect to relieve yourself from any stress of the day to stay leveled.

Who has been influential person in your life and why? The Blonde Bombshell Pamela Anderson was on the cover 14 times in Playboy she is very influential woman in my younger days I used to watch Home Improvement her name was "Lisa "on the show she was so beautiful and her smile so bright I always wonder who she was and I couldn't watch Baywatch as the sexy red bathing suit everyone loved to see on sandy beach with crystal waters she was a sex symbol only later on as I got older to watch it Pamela growing into a beautiful soul and a heart of Peta and anti- bullying activism anti-pornography she stood what she believe in what is right and wrong a brave heart overcomes the turmoil's and humiliation, people imposing on her privacy as she resign in Canada to live her life full of grace. Supermodel Naomi Campbell and Iman and Philipp Plein designer he such a go getter and his brand expand from luxury furniture to clothing and plein sport, luxury menswear perfumes and colognes, and so forth he is a genius on he created a brand over 20 years ago that is still going strong. Iman a supermodel of times that graces of Vogue, Bazaar and Cosmopolitan has collection of cosmetic line shades of color and she is an inspiration to me she is a true hustler to outsell on HSN (Home Shopping Network) as well as an advocate, Naomi Campbell is advocate to involved in many charitable causes for kids, Fun raising for breast cancer may I say she is a go getter in my eyes also grace Playboy cover 1999.

How romantic are you? I am very romantic (Romance) came from Roman, Italian, French, Spanish etymology. I'm a hopeless romantic love to have music playing in another realm when a man be in be in the presence with u red roses bouquet or rose petals at me feet, temptation of chocolate and enjoy warm massage hot bath after relax and unwind with a gentleman in this essence sweet seduction of a man's hand all over breast even intimate parts to aroused the occasion.

What was the most memorable date you've ever had? When I had my favorite Italian restaurant to be closed for only us but the chef, I think that was very sweet and memorable.

What was the biggest lesson from your worst breakup? "I can buy myself flowers I can right my name in the sand "Flowers song Miley Cyrus perfect breakup song to get over a breakup to just remind yourself u are everything u can be with or without a Man, lesson learned don't sit in one place because one relationship didn't work no need to bash each other keep good graces and pick up your pieces and move on.

Would you rather be loved, respected or admired? Have that real love surrounded can be unconditional and leveled to security overall love comes from within but to project love unto others that the biggest reflection on life on how to treat people right show more compassion in this world and being respected is a sense of a big understanding of your boundaries and morals and honoring who u are where u come from.

Are you in a city traveller or nature explorer? I think both I love to travel on my free time and different cities and must -see monarchs and on the hand the nature of the country and culture food and clothing to enjoy the fresh air the natural surroundings of earth to take a break, camp out in the wilderness enjoy without technology and appreciate nature for once that's a great feeling to pause on the world get back into reality after.

What's on bucket list? Jamaica visit the sulfur waterfalls and go to Bali visit there magical temples, black sand beaches, Monkey Forest and to go to Honduras festival Punta Gorda, walk Great Wall Of China, Egypt I would love to see the pyramids Giza Governorate interested more on history of how many men it took to build and the years and the learning of the Gods and of the underworld that was the before time

Where can our readers catch up with you stay updated on your work? Social media platform Instagram at Sommie.Lopez

LA FLORIDA

on a fashion HIGH

COURTESY **GEORGE CHINSEE/WWD/SHUTTERSTOCK**

The ever-growing legalization of cannabis is blazing a new trend in the style industry

BY **ALLIE VOLPE**

Not long ago, cannabis fashion was limited to pot-leaf-emblazoned hoodies and "Bud"-adorned belt buckles. During the age of prohibition, when virtually all aspects of the cannabis industry operated in the shadows, luxury weed goods took a back seat to activism, science and policy change. Slowly, as one state after another legalized the herb for medical and adult use—currently, pot is legal in some capacity in 33 states—the stigma around consumption decreased and cannabis emerged as both a lifestyle and a lifestyle product.

The legal cannabis industry is expected to bring in $17 billion in overall sales this year, according to cannabis insights firm New Frontier Data—and a maturing industry breeds expansion into other markets. Labels including Edie Parker Flower, Mister Green and Sundae School, plus outlets such as Barneys' high-end Beverly Hills head shop the High End, bring luxury cannabis product lines to lifestyle-minded consumers, with a focus on aesthetics and function. By redefining how a head shop looks, and the quality of products it sells, these brands are making weed fashionable.

Pot's foray into fashion follows its rebranding from an illicit substance to a way of life. Drawing on its long-standing connection to the wellness industry—and its well-documented health benefits—brands and consumers have capitalized on the plant's ability to impact mood and experiences, broadening its usership. Companies like Dosist and LucidMood market their strains and vapes based on the desired effect. CBD has trickled into beauty products, supplements and beverages, and chefs are incorporating cannabis into their cuisines.

"This whole legal world allows for more products and more communication around products—that it's not only killer flower that people want," says Lisa Gabor, who leads the newly launched cannabis division of New York communications firm BPCM.

Like luxury watches, jewelry and cars, cannabis fashion accessories marry function and aesthetics. After Edie Parker, the handbag brand whose clutches are prized among Hollywood red-carpet walkers, launched its home goods collection in 2016, founder and creative director Brett Heyman sought to put a fashionable spin on smoking paraphernalia. The Flower line, introduced in May 2019, brings the brand's signature acrylic and hand-blown-glass materials to tabletop lighters, glass pipes, rolling trays and other practical accoutrements.

"Our products, whether it's bags or home items, are never really that utilitarian," Heyman says. "They have function, of course, but they're really art pieces that you carry around or display on your table, and we wanted to look at smoking and stash accessories in the same way."

Which isn't to say Heyman wasn't met with confusion as she developed the collection. "The roadblock was people saying, 'Oh, I'm sorry, you make those expensive bags with people's names on them and now you're making cannabis accessories,'" she says.

While views around cannabis have shifted considerably in the United States—two thirds of Americans now support legalization—some still perceive it as taboo. But according to Gabor, when any industry intersects with another, labels can breed confidence in their consumers by maintaining brand integrity.

"The roadblock was people saying, 'Oh, I'm sorry, you make those expensive bags with people's names on them and now you're making cannabis accessories."

"Years ago, when fashion brands started getting into the beauty arena, it was considered odd or weird," she says. "Then you saw how Chanel translated the concept of what Chanel stood for in fashion and quality and thoughtfulness into a beauty line with the same sensibilities. In the same way, cannabis is becoming a lifestyle product."

To Heyman, the luxury-cannabis consumer doesn't fit one mold. While longtime weed fans may have yearned for accessories and clothes from fashion brands, high-end products also usher more lifestyle-minded consumers into pot appreciation: Those who consume for health and wellness purposes may want to experiment with high-end weed accessories. Newer consumers "can now discover cannabis and find something beautiful to put it in," Heyman says, in the same way people have sought out aesthetically pleasing bar-cart fixings.

As pot continues to converge with other aspects of life—fashion, sexual pleasure, even wine—more brands will come into the fold, naturally. This diversification allows each company to focus on areas where it excels, whether that's handbags or smokewear.

"Cannabis is for our girl," Heyman says. "It's for the girl who wants to buy a bag that's a little more expensive because it's handmade by skilled artisans and it's a modern heirloom, and she's also curious about cannabis. And I can speak to her. I think as an industry grows, everybody gets to participate and you don't have to solve everybody's needs. One cannabis brand doesn't have to be for everybody."

PATTY DUKE. COURTESY **PENGUIN BOOKS**

How 'Valley of the Dolls' Became a *Rallying Cry* for Queer Communities

and Made a Lifelong Ally of Its Star

A conversation with Stephen Rebello, author of the dishy and delightful new 'Dolls! Dolls! Dolls!'

BY **JAMES RICKMAN**

Last week we ran an excerpt from the new book Dolls! Dolls! Dolls! Deep Inside Valley of the Dolls, the Most Beloved Bad Book and Movie of All Time. In it, author Stephen Rebello brings to life the on-set war between star Patty Duke and director Mark Robson, whose skirmishes included weaponized donuts. Throughout Rebello's book, the laughs are abundant, but so are the moments of wrenching struggle. And even as Dolls! offers such dishy delights as an up-close view of Judy Garland's disastrous and short-lived involvement in the movie, it's easy to drift back to Duke's perilous journey from Oscar-winning child star abused and exploited by her legal guardians, through the premiere of Dolls and its enshrinement as a beloved celluloid fiasco, through decades in and out of addiction and acclaim, and ultimately to grace.

Toward the end of the book, Rebello (who's also a screenwriter and Playboy contributing editor) reveals that Duke eventually started to speak out for others living with addiction, mental illness and trauma, and that she connected with legions of LGBTQ Dolls devotees who helped her make peace with her demons—and with a movie that might have tanked her career. Here, in an interview conducted shortly before the book's release, Rebello speaks to Playboy about these transformations—the movie's, Duke's and, as he wrote the book, his own.

PLAYBOY: At then end of Dolls! Dolls! Dolls! you touch upon Patty Duke's advocacy for queer communities. Why do you think it became such a passion for her?

REBELLO: I think that she understood what it was like to be the other—although

that isn't always the open sesame to being kind or being an advocate. Queer people are everywhere, and lots and lots and lots are in show business. But I hear all the time people who've been in the business forever being absolutely idiotic and disgusting about queer people and transgender people and the whole gamut.

Patty, I think, really got it. She had been so battered by her own childhood, her own parents. She was exploited and damaged and commodified by the Rosses, who managed her, quote unquote. She was basically a house mule for them. It's why Patty and Judy Garland, in that brief time that Judy Garland was on the movie, got so intensely close. Both those women had a real appreciation for what it's like to be misjudged, laughed at, misunderstood, to have this freakish talent that most of the world merely exploited. Both of them, as children, were being force-fed drugs—one by her studio, the other by her so-called protectors.

PLAYBOY: So how did that background help her become an ally?

REBELLO: Valley of the Dolls strangely was an eye-opening experience for Patty Duke as she started to see it with gay audiences. For years, she would not talk about the movie at all. I completely understand why: When they're showing your award-clip reel, that's not necessarily one you want to include. But there's an entire population of people—of outcasts—who got the humor, who loved the outlandish costumes, the wig-upon-wig-upon-wig of it, the excess, the booze and drug aspects.

And so when she experienced that movie with gay audiences in San Francisco, in New York, in Chicago, Patty got the edge and the laughter and the sarcasm, but she also got these waves of love coming her way. Neely O'Hara was like an emblem for gay people. Lots of lesbian kids and grownups tell me all the time about how Neely is an inspiration because she takes no shit from anybody. She brings everything crashing down around her head, but she's basically a decent kid who got messed up along the way. I think you can understand that whether you're straight, gay, bi, whatever: Neely says what's on her mind.

So Patty tuned in. She found a source of love. She found a way to reconcile the movie that was supposed to put her on the map and did—but not the right map. Suddenly it became something that she could come to terms with. It's kind of a double whammy, because it not only reached this enormous worldwide audience and made a fortune, but it was ridiculed—so there was that. But then it found this other audience that for years and years kept Patty laughing at herself in the best possible way. Isn't the point of our lives to get deeper, to get kinder, to get more empathic? I think she did.

PLAYBOY: She also became an advocate for people living with mental illness and addiction.

REBELLO: I think this movie, strangely, helped her in that process. She found that she had gone through so much hell, and lived through it, and survived it, that she now wanted to tell other people that they could, too. Like many recovering addicts, she never made it seem like any day was a snap for her to get through, but that every day was a

Sharon Tate, right, received advice from castmate Duke on ways to respond to journalists without badmouthing *Valley of the Dolls*.

There's an entire population of people who got the humor, who loved the outlandish costumes, the wig-upon-wig-upon-wig of it.

Duke, left, preparing to shoot a scene for director Mark Robson, middle, with whom her conflicts were legendary.

struggle, and that every day is a struggle for everyone we know, in one way or another. She kept crisscrossing the country, speaking to people one-on-one. She was tireless, and she did it on her own dime. What a great way to use your gift and talent, bringing insight and heart and empathy and joy and understanding to people. I can't think of a better thing than any actor can do—to say thank you to someone by telling them they're worth talking to.

So my hat is off to Patty Duke, and I didn't necessarily start that way. I think I learned a thing or two on this journey.

PLAYBOY: Did the book originally have a different tone?

REBELLO: Three years ago my agent asked me why I wasn't writing another book. I said, "Well, I'm tired of coming up with serious ideas I really love that no one wants to publish." And I said, "Fuck it, I'm going to come up with something that I think I'll have fun with." But instead of just having a rip-roaring time, which is what I expected, I got caught up in it. Let's say you and I watch Valley of the Dolls in the theater; I'd be laughing hysterically, but it's tougher for me now to watch Patty, for example. She's still wildly over the top, but the laugh is coming from a different place. Honestly, sometimes it catches in my throat.

PLAYBOY: There's a quote in the excerpt in which Duke talks about her preparation for the role: "I went to bars and watched confused, tormented people full of self-pity and wondered how they got to be that way." What if the movie had been made in that spirit? Would it have endured as a serious look at sexism, addiction and mental illness?

REBELLO: You have to remember that Darryl Zanuck, who was still basically running the studio at that time, had made really important, socially relevant movies like Gentleman's Agreement, which dealt with antisemitism, and The Snake Pit, which dealt with mental illness in women. His vision for Valley of the Dolls was that it could be that: It could be an important look at opioids, way before we all knew about them; about women having no financial agency, no control over their careers, no place in the world without a man.

The Dolls screenplay never got there, and they never got a director who was willing to go there. But people forget that it was a risk to write that book, to make that movie and to be in that movie. The way it turned out—I mean, it's not irrelevant, but what some of the people making that movie were trying to do was noble. That's one of the reasons I wanted to write the book. There's an important story to tell.

One *Nation*, Now Divisible

From Iranian warships to sinking states—do Trump's actions foreshadow a fractured America?

BY **BRIAN KAREM**

Sometimes you can just smell a shitty day coming.

Wednesday morning, shortly before nine a.m. on the East Coast, President Donald Trump tweeted, "I have instructed the United States Navy to shoot down and destroy any and all Iranian gunboats if they harass our ships at sea."

The image of shooting "down" gunboats aside—unless Iran has flying vessels of which the general public is unaware—the president's latest attempt to keep us from noting that since February 29 more than 46,000 people in the United States have died of the coronavirus is not only frightening; it was inevitable.

The United States is still struggling to test its citizens for COVID-19 while some, including the president, push to reopen the country's economy as soon as possible. Trump, in his efforts to deflect and dodge, has announced it is up to governors to test citizens and decide when their individual states reopen—while he claims both total authority and absolutely no responsibility. His daily press briefings resemble a bad SNL skit with no cogent punch line, and reporters are left chasing their collective tail, trying to quantify and verify Trump's daily vomit of hate and distortion.

He continues to try to consolidate his power, using the coronavirus to become something like a diabolical comic-book villain. He'll never be more than that, because he has also seriously weakened the federal government—though few have taken notice.

Years from now, if the republic dissolves into many countries where there once was one, historians will take a long look at the regional state pacts created to deal with the coronavirus as the seeds for that outcome.

Governors in Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina have all announced plans to ease their coronavirus lockdowns.

In the Northeast, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have all banded together to coordinate their efforts to mitigate the virus.

Out west, California, Oregon and Washington are working together.

In the Mid-Atlantic region, Maryland is informally coordinating its response with Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

In the Midwest, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Kentucky have entered into a formal pact. Five of the governors are Democrats and two are Republicans.

Donald Trump's actions during the coronavirus pandemic shine a light on regional politics as nothing has before, with the exception of the Civil War. Competing with one another and the federal government for much-needed health resources, states have been forced to come together over Donald. Will it ultimately lead to more? Right now it seems to be a remote possibility—but until he was actually elected, most people thought Donald J. Trump as president was a remote possibility, a bad fiction or a psilocybin nightmare.

Trump's actions regarding the pandemic spawn so many questions that are left unanswered and give us so many questionable non-answers that one has to wonder if the chaos generated is part of the plan. On the other hand, it seems obvious Trump cannot see beyond the moment to take stock of what he does. Someone has to pick up the slack and deal with reality. It falls to the governors.

When again cornered this week by Jon Karl from ABC about the lack of testing, Trump claimed, "We've tested more than any other country," which is another lie. He also said the "invisible enemy came from nowhere." The virus is actually visible under a microscope and has never been invisible to scientists or health care workers who repeatedly warned the government during the past decade about a possible pandemic. But that hasn't kept Trump from spouting his nonsense and claiming the WHO failed to properly inform him about the virus. This particular lie is compounded by the fact that Trump had more than a dozen people working at the WHO.

The question I plan to ask him is this: "Mr. President, you cut funding to the WHO and said it deceived you. You had more than a dozen staffers there. They said you were informed as early as November. Are they lying, or are you?"

I do not expect an answer. I expect more deflection and lies.

Trump cannot answer the question, and he doesn't want to. That isn't him and never has been. He likes to brutalize, beat and bully anyone he can. His actions don't instill hope; they bring on despair and hopelessness. They belittle. They anger. They frustrate. That's because Trump wants to cultivate fear in order to maintain the illusion of control—and make money. He does it daily under the pretense of informing the public during his de facto mini-rallies in the briefing room.

If you add up everything said after the introductory remarks in these briefings, you could boil it down to one or two sentences. The rest is all show—and as long as he can look at the overnight ratings (which he does) and tweet out how proud he is of the numbers he's

getting (which he also does), then it matters little to Trump what the outcome is beyond the immediate gratification of knowing he drew a large audience. Facts? The fact is Trump thinks he's a reality-show hit.

"I've had great 'ratings' my whole life, there's nothing unusual about that for me. The White House News Conference ratings are 'through the roof' (Monday Night Football, Bachelor Finale, @nytimes) but I don't care about that. I care about going around the Fake News to the PEOPLE!" Trump tweeted on April 21.

You cannot solve social issues in such a fashion, but you might be able to make money from them. Thus Trump's hotels are asking the Trump government for bailout money. Any bets on whether they get it? To further cover his tracks, the president apparently encouraged armed insurrection against legitimate governments in three states: He wanted to "liberate" states that were ignoring the COVID-19 safety guidelines the Trump government suggested and endorsed.

Tuesday he continued his support for those protesters in several states who want the country to reopen for business sooner rather than later. During that day's circus Trump said he was with the protesters in spirit and the "groups I've seen have been very much spread out" and respecting social-distancing standards. They aren't, and thousands of photographs demonstrate that point.

Imagine any other president in a press briefing first recommending a nationwide course of action during a crisis, then tweeting out contrary advice to his "base" and encouraging protests against the action his own government had recommended. You'd call such a person many things, including immoral, insane and moronic. But you wouldn't call such a man unifying. Few would call such a man a leader.

Trump is definitely not a leader. He certainly isn't a decent man and he is no statesman. But he is tearing the country apart.

Still, the endgame is not yet in sight, and Trump's actions may well be just a speed bump in the history of the United States. The November election could decide that.

But with no coherent national strategy and Trump's decision to delegate the responsibility for testing, those states that have extensive health care resources have a leg-up on other states that do not. Making every state responsible for itself not only weakens the federal government; it weakens our ability to battle the virus as it pits state against state. Things are so bad in Maryland that Governor Larry Hogan recently had to make a deal with suppliers in South Korea just to get tests our federal government promised us and lied about weeks ago.

On Tuesday CDC director Robert Redfield threw down a chilling prediction. "There's a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through," he told The Washington Post.

Trump is apparently determined to make it more difficult. As the Post also noted, a group called Convention of States is behind some protests against state lockdowns: "The Convention of States project launched in 2015 with a high-dollar donation from the family foundation of Robert Mercer, a billionaire hedge fund manager and Republican patron. It boasts past support from two members of the Trump administration—Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Ben Carson, secretary of housing and urban development."

Donald Trump's actions during the coronavirus pandemic shine a light on regional politics as nothing has before, with the exception of the Civil War.

A house divided against itself cannot stand, and it is more difficult to keep it standing when you're actively supporting its destruction and looting its coffers.

This is not a surprise. From the beginning, when Steve "I want to tear it all down" Bannon was on the Trump train, the goal of the administration has been to destroy existing norms and lay low the federal government. The coronavirus has given Trump more fuel to burn it to the ground.

We are at a tipping point, a fork in the road and any other cliché you wish to spout about perilous times—for we remain fractured as never before. There is no denying it.

Trump is responsible for it. He actively encourages it.

The question remains: Do we?

REGGIE BUSH ON LIFE *After* THE NFL

Trump, Tom Brady, Money and Mistakes

BY **RYAN GAJEWSKI**

The recently retired running back and his wife, Lilit, tell Playboy about their effort to spread positivity with Celebrity Watch Party

Reggie Bush is constantly observing. His gift for locating holes and eluding tackles was clear during his three years at USC, where he established himself as one of the elite college running backs of his or any era. He followed this with 11 seasons in the NFL, including a Super Bowl win for the New Orleans Saints in 2010. So perhaps it's fitting that since his retirement in 2017 his life has continued to revolve around studying and absorbing—but instead of defensive schemes, he's now sizing up our culture, our leaders, our status quo.

Bush, who joined Fox Sports' college football coverage last year as an analyst, adds to his TV résumé this month with the Fox series Celebrity Watch Party. The unscripted show features, among a slew of recognizable faces, Reggie and his wife, Lilit Avagyan, on their couch at home as they react to episodes of 9-1-1, Nailed It! and RuPaul's Drag Race. Watch Party is the latest example of TV networks pivoting to create new programming as Hollywood production remains shut down during the pandemic.

Even as he binge-watches TV and raises three young children with Lilit, the 35-year-old star has a lot on his mind. Joining his wife for a recent conversation with Playboy, Reggie shared his thoughts on Trump's handling of the coronavirus, Tom Brady calling for an investigation into the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, the price of playing football and the financial guidance that no one gave him.

PLAYBOY: What made you want to do Celebrity Watch Party?
REGGIE: The show is doing a great job allowing people to focus on some positive, funny content. More than ever, we need positive stuff, because on social media it seems like it's all negative, all drama-filled, and you start to live in this different world where you get paralyzed with Instagram and Twitter. It happens to me all the time. So we try to remind ourselves to not focus too much on the negative—the police brutality, the politics, the pandemic. We try to digress a little from time to time, because we need normalcy.
PLAYBOY: What's it like to know that people are watching you as you watch TV?
REGGIE: We have such good chemistry, and we thought it would be funny. We're not acting on the show. It's just me and my wife hanging out. We even have a drink.
LILIT: Typically you don't react much when you're watching a show, so the only change is that whatever you're thinking, now you have to say it out loud. You can't just think it in your mind, because then there wouldn't be a show. But then I'd say a couple of things, and he'd have to check me and tell me, "Don't forget you're on TV and you can't say that."
PLAYBOY: I imagine sports would be a go-to viewing choice for you, if we currently had that option. What would an ideal return of sports look like to you?
REGGIE: We're preparing as if football season's going to continue, until it doesn't. And that's all we can do. That part is not in our control, and we pray and hope that the government and our health care system continue to work toward progress so things can go back to being normalized again. Every time you turn on the news, there's a death-count ticker, so we found a way to turn this very tragic thing into a sport. All they're doing is creating fear. We're very reactive in this country, and we were very reactive to this pandemic, which is why we're in this situation now, even though there were warning signs. In China, they built a hospital in a matter of days. We're the greatest country in the world, so why can't we do things like that? We can't say we don't have the resources.
PLAYBOY: You frequently use social media to spotlight social justice issues and the underprivileged. Why is it important to you to use your post-playing platform in this way?
REGGIE: It's powerful for people to use their platform. We try to use our platform the right way, but that doesn't mean we're always going to make the right decisions. People assume that when you stand for something positive and try to bring awareness to things, you're not going to be mistaken, or you shouldn't be able to make mistakes. That couldn't be further from the truth. Some of the most successful people in the world are at that point in their lives because they learned from their mistakes. For my wife and me, we've learned so much, and we try to make sure we take away as much as we can from every situation, from every issue, from mistakes and progress alike.

I'm not saying I'm going bankrupt, but if I had the proper knowledge back then, some things would be different."

PLAYBOY: Anquan Boldin is another former NFL player who helps bring attention to injustice. He has been vocal about Ahmaud Arbery's death, as have you.

REGGIE: The first time I saw the video of the Ahmaud Arbery murder, I didn't understand what I was watching. I was like, How could somebody just pull out a shotgun and kill this kid like that? Over the years, social media has afforded us the luxury of not being able to escape things that smack us right in the face. Before, with something like this, it was a story, and there was a police report to it, and everybody else made their decisions. Now we're seeing it on camera, so it's more direct, it's more in your face, and it's more shocking. When you see something like that, you just wonder, How can somebody take another life that easily?

I love the fact that Anquan Boldin and other athletes are using their platform in the right way, to speak to social injustice or police brutality or racism or politics, and using it in a positive way. Unfortunately there's been a lot of negativity from our president. I believe this is affecting our country and the fear that our country is living in. When our leadership is not in the right place, and you mix that with a pandemic, you mix that with a market crash and all these things we're seeing now on social media, right before our eyes—this is a ticking time bomb. This is not a good place for us to be in as a country. A lot of people are now being separated from their identities, because our identities come from work, unfortunately.

PLAYBOY: Boldin recently praised Tom Brady for signing a letter supporting an investigation into Arbery's death.

REGGIE: That was a powerful move by Tom Brady. I don't even know if he understands just how powerful it was, because we need more of our white superstars—celebrities, athletes, entertainers. We need them all. This is not just a black and brown problem. This is not just a minority problem. We are all literally in this together. So when Tom Brady signed that letter, it was so powerful to me, because to be honest with you, I've never seen him step into the limelight in that way. I've always seen Tom Brady the football player and the businessman and the marketing genius, but I've never seen Tom Brady step out as a person who's just standing up for other people—and black people—in the community. That's so powerful, because he has fans who are all shapes, sizes and colors. When we have somebody like Tom Brady, our biggest superstar in the NFL, step up to the plate, hopefully other leaders will see that. And other people from other sports and different genres will follow suit.

PLAYBOY: I imagine it can be a tough decision to potentially alienate part of your fan base.

REGGIE: I still heavily side with the New Orleans Saints, and the Saints play Tampa Bay twice a year, so we usually go to the games. When I do see Tom Brady, the first thing I'm going to tell him is I appreciate him for stepping up and stepping out, because it's not easy. A lot of people think it's easy just to sign your name to something, just because it's the right thing to do. And maybe it's the new way, for everybody to come and jump on a bandwagon, but it's not easy when you have that kind of star power behind you. You're putting a lot on the line. The first thing I'm going to tell him is "Man, awesome job. We appreciate you."

PLAYBOY: With Brady joining the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this off-season, which team will end up on top of that division?

REGGIE: Tampa Bay just quickly climbed the ladder. They are a real threat for the NFC South. It's crazy, because now we know it's going to be Drew Brees's last year. And most likely Tom Brady's last year, but who knows? The guy just seems to not age. But Tampa's a real problem for the Saints. If you think about how good they were with Jameis Winston, despite the 30 interceptions—now you replace him with Tom Brady, who doesn't turn the football over and is literally the GOAT. Right away, this automatically puts them in the conversation for winning the division. That's scary. The Saints are going to have to be special to win the division this year. Even though the past two years were pretty tough losses, this might be the toughest year.

PLAYBOY: I'd love to see Drew Brees on Celebrity Watch Party one of these days, so you need to make that happen. Do you and Drew still chat?

REGGIE: We have not spoken yet. But we talk from time to time. When I do see him, I will definitely speak about the state of the division. I really feel like they can win it, but again, it's going to be tough.

"I know I could help teams. I don't think it—I know it."

PLAYBOY: When you see someone like Frank Gore, a running back who keeps coming back to the game after all these years, do you wish you were still in there?

REGGIE: No. I'm happy where I am. Frank Gore is an amazing player, and he's been able to play a long time in the NFL. That was part of his calling. If it was part of my calling to still be in the league, I'd still be in the league. I can still play. We don't retire in a wheelchair. We don't retire on one leg. When we retire, we're still young. We can still play. The issue is, this is a young person's game. It always has been and always will be. Specific positions allow you to play a lot longer than most other positions, like quarterback or kickers. For running backs, if you can get to 10 years, that's like dog years. That's like playing 20 years in the NFL from your body's perspective, with the amount of pain and torture and trauma your body has taken.

When I retired after 11 years in the league, I could have played another three years, but for a running back who's 32 years old, you're not going to get a big contract. You're not going to get a lot of money. So then it becomes, what is worth my body? What is worth my livelihood? What amount of money is worth it for me to be able to run around with my kids and not have to play another two, three years and possibly suffer more concussions, and more injuries and body trauma, for a million bucks? I'm not saying a million dollars isn't a lot of money. But is it worth your life? The answer is no. For me, I retired, and I'm happy with where I'm at. I'm happy not playing football.

PLAYBOY: You played your final season with the Buffalo Bills. As a Bills fan, I feel you could have still helped the team with that playoff push last year.

REGGIE: I know I could help teams. I don't think it—I know it. But that chapter has been closed in my life, and I'm very comfortable with that. I'm actually happy to not be getting hit. I'm happy to not deal with my knee being swollen on game days and practice days and having to get it drained, and all these different things you guys don't

see. You guys turn on the TV on Sunday, and you're like, "Oh, shit. This is the greatest sport in the world." And it is one of the greatest sports in the world. But it comes with a price. It comes with sacrifices. And those sacrifices are what people don't see. The game will always be one of my first loves, but I'm happy with where I'm at right now.

PLAYBOY: Certainly the idea of when to retire is a hot topic. Even now, debate continues over the Packers drafting quarterback Jordan Love in the first round when they still have Aaron Rodgers.

REGGIE: That's business in the NFL. That's how it works. It don't matter who you are. At some point in time, you will be replaced. I don't care if your name is Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers or anybody else. That's just the nature of the beast. That's why I said it's a young person's game. Everybody was like, "How could they draft Jordan Love?" And I'm saying, "Why would they not draft Jordan Love?" This is a new coach. When coaches come in, they want their own culture. They don't want the culture they inherited, because clearly that culture was what got the previous coach fired. They want to bring in their own players so they can start with the freshman talent.

Aaron Rodgers is a great player, but you're not going to be able to teach Aaron Rodgers anything. He's already reached that peak where you have to adjust to him; Aaron Rodgers can't adjust to you. I don't necessarily mean that a coach can't coach him. He can be coachable, but it's different when you're trying to teach a 35-year-old quarterback something new. Jordan Love is also the culture of the game and of college football right now—everything's about dual-threat quarterbacks. That's the reason quarterbacks like Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson are having a lot of success: because now you've got to be able to run too. You can't just sit in the pocket.

PLAYBOY: Do you ever think about trying your hand at coaching?

"When Tom Brady signed that letter, it was so powerful to me, because I've never seen him step into the limelight in that way."

REGGIE: Nope, no coaching for me. Maybe I'd take a front-office position, but I'm not trying to go back and coach. I would like to help people, but I'd rather just pop in for guidance. Guidance is the one thing that young athletes coming through the college system miss on so much. I missed on it. They're about to start paying college athletes. This is something that has never been experienced before, and it's going to destroy some people if their foundation is not in the right place.

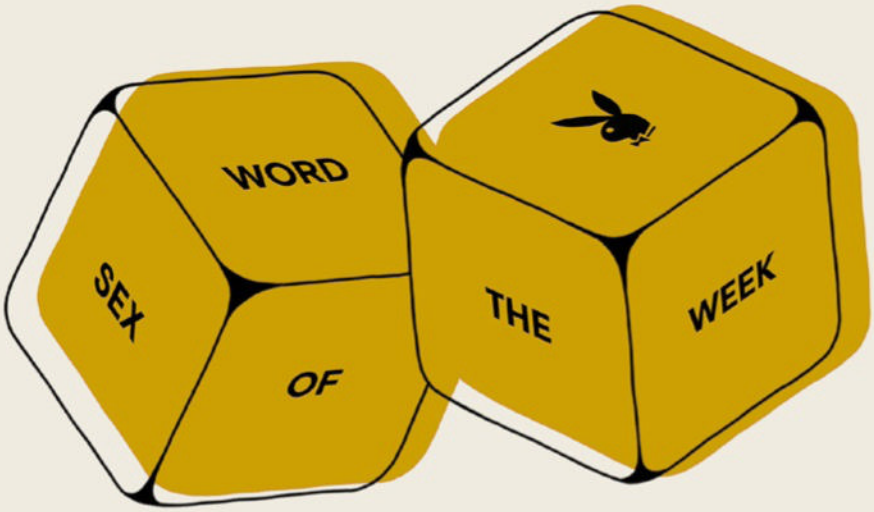
The one thing I wish I had early in my career is proper financial knowledge. I hired good agents, and I hired a good team. But I allowed that good team to make decisions for me. I'm not saying I'm going bankrupt, but if I had the proper knowledge back then, some things would be different. People just assume, "Well, you got all this money, so you're good." It's actually the opposite. The more money you have, the more danger you're in. Because now you're a freaking open target for a lot of people. It's a nasty world out there, and it's about to get nastier. You're going to really start to see the true colors of a lot of people, and a lot of businesses too. You're going to see people doing some crazy stuff to make money, because our market is crashing.

PLAYBOY: Getting back to Celebrity Watch Party, some episodes feature you both watching cooking shows. These days everyone is experimenting with recipes. Has your family had any kitchen mishaps?

REGGIE: My wife is a five-star chef. I'm not even saying that because she's sitting right here. My wife can really cook, and honestly, it was a big part of the reason I married her. [laughs] Nah, I'm kidding. But she cooks so good, man.

PLAYBOY: How do you handle parenting during quarantine?

LILIT: It's important for their mental well-being that they understand why they can't go anywhere. They don't understand why they can't go to school and why they can't go to all the fun places. So we let them know what they need to know, and no more than that. We explain what's happening, but at the same time, we protect them to keep them from being fearful. They understand that life is beautiful and that things are going to be normal again.



Spinner

WRITTEN BY
ANITA LITTLE

ILLUSTRATION BY
KATIE BAILIE

If your libidinous mind can imagine it, there's probably already a term for it

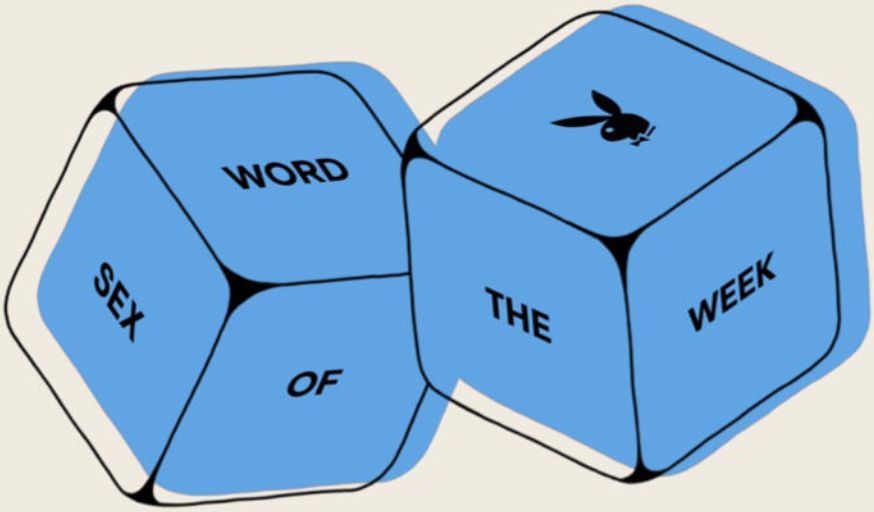
spinner (*n*) in the adult-film industry, a petite woman of exceptional agility

As one of the most beloved spinners in porn, Holly Hendrix was world famous for her gymnast build and dazzling on-screen flexibility.

The lexicon of porn spans a vast laundry list of terms, from *analingus* to *webcam* (remarkably, not even Pornhub offers searches for the letters *x, y* or *z*). The comparatively obscure *spinner* refers to women performers who are petite and flexible—traits typically associated with sexual agility. There's no official rule, but to be regarded as a spinner one would typically stand under five-foot-three and weigh in at less than 100 pounds. Picture an Olympic-grade gymnast on a balance beam. That's how spinners are seen in porn: fun-size, graceful and very lithe.

The term has expanded beyond the porn industry and can be used to describe any sexual partner who's small in stature and athletic in her bedroom pursuits. Of course spinner can bring forth the image of a person so miniature they could sit and spin on an erect penis—but please don't actually try this. Serious penile injury could ensue.

The adult world wouldn't be the same without them (nor would the bedrooms of countless lucky couples), so cheers to our masters of spin.



Metamour

WRITTEN BY
ANITA LITTLE

ILLUSTRATION BY
KATIE BAILIE

If your libidinous mind can imagine it, there's probably already a term for it

This week's word is *metamour.*

metamour (*n*) within a polyamorous relationship, one partner's partner with whom one is not romantically involved

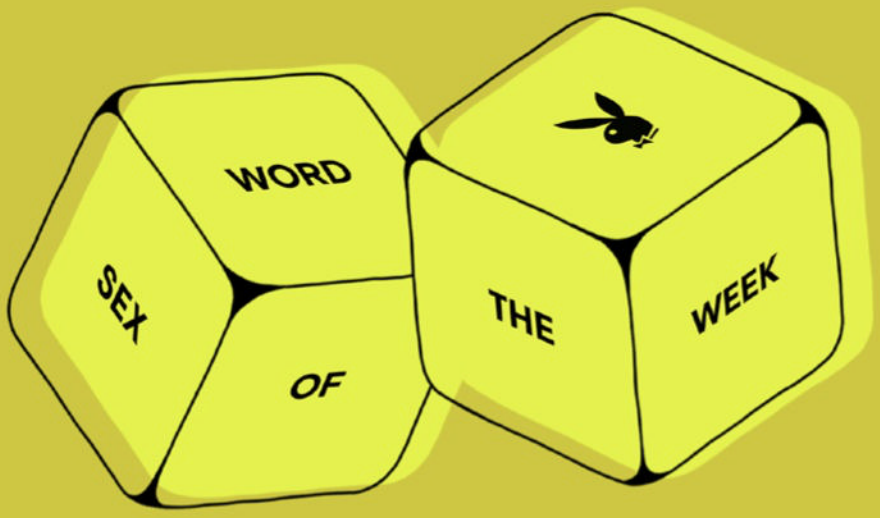
Brendan saw Nick from across the grocery-store aisle and gave him a quick wave, all the while wondering when Nick's next date with Brendan's wife would be; he was forever curious about his metamours.

This week's word comes from the vast terrain of polyamory. To put it simply, a metamour is a partner of your partner with whom you have no romantic relationship. If Brendan and Kara are together, and Kara and Nick are together, but Brendan and Nick are not, then Nick and Brendan are metamours. In a way, this structure stands in contrast to polyfidelity, a form of polyamory in which all members of a group date one another. (If such a group consists of three people, it is known by the relatively familiar term throuple.)

There are countless ways to engage in polyamory; its success depends on communication and boundary-setting, as it does in monogamous relationships. Those who practice polyamory have a range of options when it comes to interacting with metamours. You can get formally introduced, or you and your partner can take a DADT (don't ask, don't tell) approach where no information about metamours is exchanged. Some metamours opt to form fulfilling friendships with one another, building a poly family from their network of metamours.

For those seeking compersion, which is pleasure from witnessing another's pleasure, having a bond with a metamour can be an advantage. Acting in a compersive way could mean watching the kids for a weekend so your partner and metamour can enjoy a romantic getaway or making dinner reservations for the both of them at their favorite restaurant. In other words, it's the opposite of jealousy.

In the end, being able to navigate metamours comes down to the ability to be honest, open and respectful with your partners. It's not for everyone, but when done well, it can lead to heightened relationship satisfaction. Now that's *mour* like it.



Lactophilia

WRITTEN BY
ANITA LITTLE

ILLUSTRATION BY
KATIE BAILIE

If your libidinous mind can imagine it, there's probably already a term for it

lactophilia (*n*) sexual arousal caused by lactating breasts and/or breastfeeding

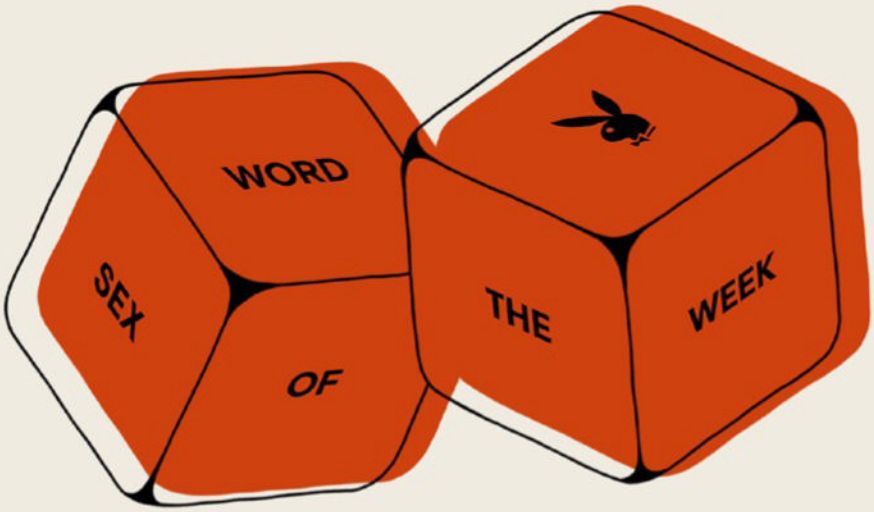
Anna was pumping lunch for her newborn, and the sight aroused her husband so much they ended up having vigorous sex while he sucked both of her breasts dry.

In celebration of Mother's Day on Sunday, this week's word is a nod to the tireless and often thankless work many mothers do in feeding their infants—and the community that's unapologetically turned on by it.

Lactophilia, also known as milk fetishism and erotic lactation, is the basis of ANRs (adult nursing relationships), which consist of a lactating woman and an adult partner who is typically—but not always—male. ANRs by nature have to be consistent and long-term: An interruption in nursing could cause the woman to cease producing milk. Breastfeeding can be sexually gratifying for both partners as it's not unheard of for a woman to climax while suckling. This fetish can sometimes accompany but should not be conflated with infantilism (sexual arousal from playing an adult baby) or maieusiophilia (a fetish for pregnant women).

According to a study from sexologist Justin Lehmiller that was previously published on Playboy, a third of 40,000 men surveyed had indulged in erotic fantasies about breast milk at least once. The terms lactation and milk squirt bring forth a bevy of results on PornHub; a wealth of fetish sites focus solely on the genre. And breast milk is a big seller in countries including Japan, where select bars sell the life-giving elixir—sometimes even "straight from the tap" for the right price.

Breasts and nipples are already highly eroticized. Lactation fetishists are simply taking an existing desire and milking it for all it's worth.



E-stim

WRITTEN BY
ANITA LITTLE

ILLUSTRATION BY
KATIE BAILIE

If your libidinous mind can imagine it, there's probably already a term for it

This week's word is *e-stim.*

e-stim (*n*) the practice of applying measured electric currents to the body for the purpose of sexual pleasure

Jackson carefully affixed e-stim nodes onto his partner's labia and watched with pleasure as the small electroshocks pushed her to climax.

It seems like something out of a Frankenstein movie, but this is no horror trope; it's a relatively new and somewhat, uh, shocking way to get off. You know the tingle you feel coursing up and down your spine when you're near that special person? Imagine that but with the addition of actual measurable voltage. That's electrostimulation, also known as electrosex and our word of the week.

You may see these terms and think *ouch*, but when used correctly, e-stim provides a delicate tickling sensation and not the defibrillator jolt one might imagine. Our nervous systems are already made up of electric currents; electrosex simply taps into them.

E-stim can be very involved, including clamps for nipples and labia, vaginal probes, electrified cock rings and butt plugs—and if you're dedicated, you can invest in an e-stim kit that often includes a power box and sticky pads with electrodes.

A rule of thumb for beginners: Keep all electric activity below the waist and away from your heart to avoid disturbing its natural rhythm. Nipple play should be reserved for experienced "stimmers."

How did humanity discover the low-voltage joy of e-stim? It grew out of the "medfet," or medical fetish, community, and the technology had existed for decades before being repurposed for a kinkier use. Today's e-stim kit evolved from the medical TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) unit that uses electric currents to target muscle pain. Now it generates a completely different kind of buzz.

UNWIND WITH Flora Ivy

Instagram **@floraivytv**

Photography by **Mike Cohen | @mikecohenphotos**
PR **LA Media Group | @la.mediagroup**

Such an absolute honour to have you on Playboy! Tell us about your daily schedule as a model, do you have a routine? It's been a pleasure to have been photographed for playboy, I feel very honoured myself. It's always very inspiring seeing the models that have graced your pages before, so it was very exciting for me to do this. I do have a little routine in my daily life..I love my mornings to be very health focused; breakfast, gym etc. it makes me feel wholesome and sets me right for the day, then from midday it's all work. So no bookings or plans before 12 please haha!

How do you like to begin your day? If it's a nice day, I sit with my coffee outside and write in my Journal listening to the birds. I like to empty my head and write my thoughts and dreams out. I find this helps mentally and prepares me for my day. My favourite breakfast right now is Smoked salmon Bagels with salted whipped cream cheese so that comes swiftly next.

What are some of your biggest dreams you hope to achieve? Playboy was actually one of them, so thanks again for making this happen. I've wanted to build my own little retreat for some time. A style of Yin yoga, Kundalini and sound bathes. Bringing the peace and serenity I have found in these aspects of my life to others who would love to just unwind and de-stress. Help people connect with something deeper that leaves them feeling refreshed and happy. It's quite beautiful to watch people glow after a session. Their inner smile has re-appeared. I love it.

What helps you decompress and relax? Yoga really for me is life, I feel at home on my yoga mat and comes everywhere with me. It's been an important tool for me with mental health and I believe in it. But I do also like to watch a good movie too with some good snacks and relax with friends and family.

Who has been the most influential person in your life and why? I wouldn't say I have one influential person in my life. I have found inspiration from many things in my life, mostly from travel. Meeting new people from around the world from all different places and the amazing things they do. I feel you take a little wisdom from every person you meet. You can learn a lot by listening to others and just being quite reflective. Model wise, I take a lot of influence from Burlesque stars Betty Page, Dita von Tease and Tempest Storm. I love the self-expression, story and art of tease. When they take their clothes off its art! And although I'm not an exotic dancer, I like to move very slow, seductive in this way for the camera. Revealing something, but never too much to quickly. Where would be the fun in that :)

How romantic are you? Soooo romantic! Love being loved and i love hard back. I'm a giver and put so much energy into my partners or brief sexy encounters. So yes, for me candle lit dinner dates, romantic walks and cuddling on the sofa with a movie. I like to snuggle, have my face held and be kissed in the rain. Love hearing someone else's great love story too. I'm a sucker for love. What is the most memorable date you've ever had? I have had a lot of small beautiful magical romances but there is one particular that stands out. It was a date to a garden centre. Which sounds silly, but this guy had listened to what I loved and surprised me. I had not been long into my new home; it was just a big white empty space. And he filled it with plants! now that's crazy romantic for me. He knew I missed jungle life travelling, knew I loved nature, and I wanted a base in England. My smile was so big, he made me very happy that day. I still have all these plants now and they are massive.

What was the biggest lesson from your worst breakup? People have always tried to change me or my job. And I think it sadly diminishes your personality and breaks you down. Don't let anyone change who you are. You are beautiful as you are, only you know yourself when to change and grow. And listen to your intuition, it's very on point. Be strong!

Would you rather be loved, respected, or admired? Admiration would be nice for just being my true self and being kind to others. And then I believe respect comes with that. I would always treat people how I want to be treated.

Are you a city traveller or nature explorer? Nature explorer!!! Call me Flora the explorer. I love being immersed in forests finding waterfalls & creatures. Love animals almost too much... always get told off for trying to make friends with lizards and monkeys when I'm away. When I'm not travelling, I'm at my little sanctuary of tropical plants that fill my home and, in my garden, back in England.

What's on your travel bucket list? Ooo so many places I would love to see but Top 3 right now is Costa Rica, just for pure nature and environment. Japan I would love to go for spring to see the cherry blossom and eat the food. And some little places in Switzerland with lakes and mountains. I have been lucky enough to have travelled a fair bit with modelling and also other work, i used to be a air hostess for a awhile. I am very grateful to have travelled so much and meet lots of people from around the world.

Where can our readers catch up with you and stay updated with your work? I do post regularly on social media. You can find me on Instagram at @floraivytv. Come join me on my adventures and see all the pretty lingerie I wear. I'm a sucker from pretty embroidery, fine lace, and stockings. I have such a big collection so it's a combination of travel and pretty knickers. Also, I have my Twitter where i mostly like sharing my daily thoughts. Come find me and lets connect.

Playboy Interview

Dennis Rodman

A candid conversation with the NBA's boa-clad bad boy about rebounding, oral sex, lap dances, kicking that cameraman and how, deep down, he's really a very shy man

INTERVIEW BY **KEVIN COOK** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BILL SMITH**

"This will be your most difficult interview ever." So said a friend who has prowled a few nights with the Chicago Bulls' freaky forward. Three days later we agreed that hanging with Dennis Rodman, discussing his public and private self in hotel rooms, casinos and nightclubs, was difficult at times—times like sunup, for instance. It was also rewarding in unexpected ways.

Our weekend with Rodman began with a visit to his agent, Dwight Manley, one of the real-life models for Tom Cruise's character in Jerry Maguire. Yes, Manley said, Dennis liked the idea of doing PLAYBOY. And since he was serving an 11-game suspension for kicking a cameraman, he had some free time. But there would be ground rules. m"Not rules so much as ways of approaching Dennis," said Manley, as if he were discussing nitroglycerin. In the end, however, the Rodman rules were simple. First, Dennis does only and exactly what he wants. Might talk, might not. Meet him for dinner, hit a few nightclubs. If he offers to buy you a lap dance, you're in.

Erratic? Expensive? Extremely, but any difficulty was a small price for quality time with the only cross-dressing, nose- and scrotum-pierced, best-selling millionaire author we know.

Rodman was born 36 years ago and grew up in the Oak Cliff projects of south Dallas. His father, Philander Rodman, abandoned the family when Dennis was three. Philander eventually moved to the Philippines, where he claims to have fathered 27 children. Dennis grew up with his disapproving mother, Shirley, and two younger sisters, Debra and Kim, who both played basketball better than he did. The girls became college all-Americans, while their big brother became a janitor and a thief.

After Shirley kicked her bad boy out of the house, Rodman was homeless. At 20 he was pushing a broom on the graveyard shift at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. One night he used a broom handle to pilfer 50 watches from a closed gift shop. He was jailed overnight and fired. Rodman hit bottom, then rebounded in a big way. He had grown almost 12 inches in a year. The clumsy high schooler who had never played a varsity game was now a force in neighborhood pickup games. Still, his coming-out party flopped. While averaging 17 points and 13 rebounds for Cooke County Junior College, Rodman flunked out.

Fortunately for today's Bulls fans, as well as for MTV and the feather boa industry, an assistant coach at tiny Southeastern Oklahoma State University saw Rodman play that year. Soon Dennis was a hoops hero in Durant, Oklahoma.

From 1984 to 1986 he averaged 26 points and 15.6 rebounds for the Southeastern Oklahoma State Savages. Rodman was a three-time NAIA all-American. Still, he says he was p"a lost soul." Durant had a population of 6000. It was 5999 white folks and him. Fortunately a local family had taken him in. James Rich, a mailman, his wife, Pat, and their 13-year-old son, Bryne, virtually adopted Rodman. Bryne, who had accidentally shot and killed his best friend on a hunting trip, had terrible nightmares and needed a friend. Dennis, at 22, needed a family. On his first night in the Rich home he left the couch and slept on a trundle bed in Bryne's room.

"Look, I have sex a lot. Sometimes it's just going through the motions. I've faked."

Soon Rodman was milking cows and feeding chickens. Though he loved his foster family, he couldn't escape outsider status. The Riches tried to accept their friend Worm (a nickname for the way he wiggled playing video games). Yet there was evil gossip in town. It got so bad that Pat was reluctant to go out in public with Dennis. Eventually they became a functional family, and the Riches filled a gap in Rodman's life between the projects and the NBA, where he finally found the father he had been looking for.

In 1986 Detroit Pistons coach Chuck Daly risked the 27th pick of the NBA draft on the skinny no-name who became, at 25, the oldest rookie in the league. During the next two seasons Daly, a man Rodman almost worshiped, eased Dennis past All-Star Adrian Dantley into the starting lineup for the famed Bad Boy Pistons. In the 1988-1989 season, Rodman averaged 9.4 rebounds and Detroit swept the Lakers for the NBA title.

Detroit won another championship the next season. Rodman was the league's defensive player of the year. He would soon lead the NBA in rebounding year after year; his 1991-1992 average of 18.7 rebounds was the best since Wilt Chamberlain led the league two decades earlier. But by 1993 Detroit's title team was dismantled and Daly was eased out—betrayed by the club, Rodman thought.

One day that year, Detroit police found Rodman in his pickup truck at dawn. He had a loaded rifle next to him and said that he was contemplating suicide. Before long he had been traded to San Antonio, where his colorful mean streak started making news.

It was in Texas that Rodman started dyeing his hair. Next came tattoos and piercing, and he began making borderline nutty statements. The man who didn't play much offense started giving plenty. He belittled Spurs coach Bob Hill, calling him Boner. He also expressed contempt for Spurs hero David Robinson, publicly questioning Robinson's guts. He refused to help Robinson on defense and turned his back on team huddles. He started going AWOL. Rodman won the rebounding title both years in San Antonio, but in 1995 the Spurs gladly traded him to Chicago for Will Perdue.

That deal had a notable sidelight. Bulls stars Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen have veto power on trades, but both agreed to welcome Rodman to Chicago. Though they remembered the 1991 playoffs, when Rodman shoved Pippen into the stands (leaving Pippen with a nasty gash on his face and Rodman with a $5000 fine), the Bulls' scorers wanted the game's best rebounder on their side.

Today, Pippen's chin bears the scar of Rodman's cheap shot. And Jordan can barely conceal his irritation with the Bulls' antic antihero. Yet with all three of them in the lineup, there is little doubt the Bulls are the best team the game has ever seen.

Meanwhile, Rodman transcends his craft. It was news last year when Sports Illustrated suggested that he might be the best rebounder of all time. Wilt Chamberlain has disagreed. In turn, Rodman has challenged Wilt by attacking a statistic that means as much to both men as rebounds: sexual conquests.

When the Stilt boasted of having had sex with 20,000 women, Rodman wrote in his best-seller, Bad As I Wanna Be, that m"Wilt Chamberlain lied out of his ass." That was one of many naughty bits in the book that made the tattooed cross-dresser a crossover superstar. He also quoted Madonna's pillow talk: "Are you going to eat my pussy first?" and "I want every drop of your come inside me."

Then he acted hurt when she called him p"disgusting."

Rodman is good at acting hurt. His book portrays him as something of an all-purpose victim: Nobody understands him, everybody wants a piece of him. And while some of his poor-Dennis pose is mere marketing—would anyone feel sorry for a happy millionaire?—his gripes sound sincere when you meet him.

For all his fame and his millions, Rodman carries a big chip on his tattooed shoulder. Yes, he has a big-budget action movie, Double Team, in theaters near you. He has his own show on MTV. He has a new book, Walk on the Wild Side, out to explain his innermost thoughts. Yet he insists that he is misunderstood. Maybe that's

what makes Dennis Rodman the most postmodern celeb of them all. He is everywhere, emptily. He is in your face in movies, TV, bookstores, video games, action figures and virtual reality, but he says you don't really know him.

We sent Contributing Editor Kevin Cook to Las Vegas to get to know Rodman. He was joined by well-known Chicago businessman Bill Marovitz, who assisted Cook both as an interviewer and as a guide on some unique Rodmanesque adventures. Cook reports:

"We met in Las Vegas, where the scenery matches Rodman's hair. I arrived at the Mirage Hotel and Casino, his Vegas headquarters, with time to spare, In fact, since it took Rodman about 28 hours to show up for our first talk, I had time to prepare a long list of questions.

"Those questions wound up on a disco floor somewhere. My first night with Dennis taught me that lists are useless with this guy. He may be the most nonlinear man I've ever met. You don't need questions to talk with Dennis Rodman. Benzedrine, maybe. One does not sit with him. Instead you chase him, ride in limos and watch topless dancers with him, keep changing the subject until a topic sparks his interest. Going into this interview I expected him to be surly, but at two a.m., even after a few drinks, he was bright-eyed and funny, with a knack for metaphor that startled me.

"I don't give a fuck about anybody in the NBA. Hanging with Michael Jordan is supposed to be big news? Please."

"After a day of waiting I had hooked up with his crew for a ten p.m. dinner at the Mirage. Ten p.m. is the beginning of late for me, but for Rodman it's the dawn of a night he intends to grab and squeeze like a stray rebound. That night, fresh off a standing ovation on Jay Leno's Tonight Show, Rodman strode through the Mirage in furry tiger-striped pants and a leather shirt that showed off his muscled chest. His hair was the color of a lemon-lime Lava lamp. He lifted an eyebrow when his agent announced that I was there to do the Dennis Rodman Playboy Interview. Rodman's expression said, We'll see about that.

"During the next three days I would sleep a total of five hours. I would get to know the Rodman group, featuring Manley as well as Dennis' weekend girlfriend. And wise Wendell Williams, Rodman's 280-pound bodyguard, gave me the first quote I wrote down: p'Dennis isn't crazy. Dennis is free.'

"Rodman is no ordinary chat. I didn't so much converse with him as step into his stream of consciousness.

"We began in his limo, zooming past the giant fountain at Caesars Palace."

RODMAN: Evel Knievel jumped a motorcycle over this fountain. That was so cool.
PLAYBOY: Is that your idea of celebrity?
RODMAN: You know how I see it? Not to be bigheaded, but shit, you can put me up there with Jim Morrison, fucking goddamn Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin.
PLAYBOY: They're all dead.
RODMAN: They say Elvis is dead. I say, no, you're looking at him. Elvis isn't dead, he just changed color.
PLAYBOY: You're in Chicago Bulls colors tonight—a floor-length red jacket and black shirt.
RODMAN: No. This coat is not red. It's hot pink. I am a multicolored individual. A different color every day. They call me the Worm, but that's wrong. I'm the fucking chameleon.
PLAYBOY: Why is America paying you so much attention?
RODMAN: I give them a little thrill, all the people who forgot that life is fun. It's like The Phantom of the Opera—it might scare them, but they like it. But it's just a fad. I'm a fad. I am on fire right now, dude, but it won't last forever.
PLAYBOY: Are you more comfortable in public or in private?
RODMAN: Public.

[As his entourage streamed through the casino at the Rio Suite Hotel, all eyes followed the towering, pink-coated Rodman. Whether he was gambling or on the move, his only protection was bodyguard Williams, who gently turned away autograph seekers. One girl got to Dennis by pleading, actually going to one knee as she cried, m"Please! It's my bachelorette party." With a nod to his bodyguard "It's OK"—Rodman allowed the girl to kiss him, and she raced down an aisle of slot machines, yelling, "I kissed Dennis Rodman! I kissed Dennis Rodman!"

We sat in Club Rio at a table soon littered with empty shot glasses and beer bottles. The star seemed momentarily bored. There were two autograph hunters nearby; Rodman pointed to me as if trying to impress them.]

RODMAN: [*To the fans*] No autographs. Doing an interview here.
PLAYBOY: Does all the hubbub ever bother you?
RODMAN: [*Nodding, calling for a round of drinks*] I was in this club and when I went up to dance, everybody stopped dancing. They stood there watching me. I sat back down.
PLAYBOY: How do you relax?
RODMAN: Spend time with people who have a good time. The people you see in my limo. Fuckers who are fun. People who P-A-R-T-Y! Why party? Because I can. [He hugs his female companion.] This is fun right here. When you are in Dennis Rodman's clan you celebrate the living of life. So once I'm with people I like, I relax. Because I know there's people out there who want to fuck me.
PLAYBOY: Thousands.
RODMAN: No, I don't mean literally want to fuck me. There are assholes who don't like me.
PLAYBOY: Including the NBA?

RODMAN: I fuck up the NBA image, their whole business enterprise. Because I can express myself as an individual. In their high-society sport, I bring it from the heart.

PLAYBOY: You are known for your court sense—for anticipating what's going to happen next on the floor. Can you do that with trends, too? Did you plan the Rodman fad?

RODMAN: My things are never planned. I visualize, I focus and analyze, but I'm always in the here and now. Once I learned to be myself, to express myself, the rest just happened. And now I'm in the atmosphere. I am the reality. I'm Elvis, Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead all wrapped into one. The president of the United States gets a hard-on just thinking about me.

PLAYBOY: Supposedly that doesn't take much.

RODMAN: His wife was on TV, joking around that she was g"Hillary Rodman Clinton." Now, I always thought you had to have sex with a person before you took his name. So maybe she was thinking about it. I can see them in bed, the president's making love and she's saying, "Oh, oh, Dennis—I mean, Bill!"

PLAYBOY: What else amuses you about your fad?

RODMAN: My life is a circus. My year is 365 days of fucking confusion. But I'm still leading in rebounding, 600-plus rebounds in only 30-some games. Nothing is planned. My life is more addictive. But I love it. I keep Lucifer wondering, What will he do next? Will he really play his last game in the nude?

PLAYBOY: Michael Jordan told us he's against any such thing.

RODMAN: It'll happen. You'll see it.

PLAYBOY: Some people call you the world's weirdest athlete.

RODMAN: I'm not an athlete. Athletes are boring, typical and predictable. I can't even watch them talk on TV. You know, the scene after the game.

PLAYBOY: They're all putting the team first and giving 110 percent.

RODMAN: Save it. The difference between me and athletes is, they want to be athletes. They even want to be coaches when their careers are over. I am above all that. But still, I have my downfall every year. Some little thing blows up on me. A couple years ago I head-butted a ref and got suspended. This year it was kicking that cameraman motherfucker, Eugene Amos.

PLAYBOY: Amos is a courtside photographer. You plowed into him trying to save a loose ball. What made you kick him?

RODMAN: It was a trigger reaction. Can't I have a bad day? It's like you coming home from work. Maybe you've been working hard, focusing hard all day, you come home and your wife sits there bitching about the smallest fucking thing. Something triggers in the brain and you might lash out.

PLAYBOY: Should Amos have been there? In other sports the press isn't allowed to be so close to the action.

RODMAN: We need more room. The cameras they use today can shoot pictures of you from the moon, so why are they right up on the court? I could have broken my leg running into him and his camera. I think they should be at least two or three feet back.

PLAYBOY: Amos dropped charges against you after you paid him a handsome settlement. How did that work? Did you have a meeting?

RODMAN: It was a telephone call. He sounded like a politician. g"Thank you very much," he said, "and God bless." Then I see on the news, just last week—Eugene Amos got arrested for beating his girlfriend.

PLAYBOY: Vindication?

RODMAN: Vindication in a way. It shows you that life has its wacky ways of working out.

PLAYBOY: Maybe Amos should give your $200,000 to his girlfriend.

RODMAN: He should give it back to my ass.

PLAYBOY: Speaking of numbers, you state that Wilt Chamberlain lied when he claimed he'd had sex with 20,000 women. But you have never mentioned your own career total.

"I have done a lot for the gay community. I make it more acceptable. I am an entertainer, a phenomenon and a historical landmark."

RODMAN: In my whole life I have had between 25 and 30 women. Maybe five good ones.

PLAYBOY: You wrote in your book that you were still a virgin at 20.

RODMAN: Well, I'm making up for lost time. My hormones run wild like the fever of typhus, baby.

PLAYBOY: Why such a late start?

RODMAN: When you live in the community I was in, with no money, and you're not good-looking. I didn't have shit. Never went to the school prom. I didn't even like girls. Look, when you are just a motherfucking guy in the neighborhood trying to survive, it's not a sexual environment.

PLAYBOY: g"Not good-looking"? Is that what you think when you look in the mirror?

RODMAN: I don't look at mirrors. I'm too fucking ugly.

PLAYBOY: We could easily round up 100 women who would jump at the chance to sleep with you tonight.

RODMAN: I just don't like mirrors.

PLAYBOY: Is it true that you were so asexual you didn't masturbate until you were 19?

RODMAN: That's right. But the first time, I was already an expert. Just about jerked the head off it. [He mimes wrestling a fire hose.]

PLAYBOY: You've said you try to be faithful to whomever your current girlfriend may be. If she's not in town you sometimes satisfy yourself. You even gave your hands sexy names.

RODMAN: Monique and Judy. In case I get frustrated and confused, I always know they can help my ass out. If Monique gets tired, turn to Judy.

PLAYBOY: Not everyone is so candid about masturbating.
RODMAN: Masturbation happens 1.6 billion times a day. Every man and woman does it. It's like the wildfires of California, baby, so we may as well say it.
[By now we had changed venues again. We were at a club called Drink and Eat Too. Even louder than the Rio, it was jammed with drinkers, dancers and Rodman-watchers. The watchee stood in a corner behind the bar, which was a step above the floor. From there he peered impassively down at all the faces upturned toward him. We had given up our talk for the night; Drink was too loud. Then Rodman shouted, m"Reporter, reporter!" We were under way again.]
PLAYBOY: You say your goal in life is freedom, being free of society's rules or even those of the NBA. When do you feel free?
RODMAN: Having sex.
PLAYBOY: Tell us more. What do you want in bed?
RODMAN: I want a woman who's free. That means she's independent and desirable. I could use some independence in a woman, too. Usually when I have sex I am in control, I'm dominant, but I'd like some woman to get on top of me and be in control for half an hour, do me for a half hour. Then we'd be even.
PLAYBOY: What makes a man good in bed?
RODMAN: Confidence. He should be confident in his dick. And eat pussy big-time, too. Go down under and have a fucking groundhog for lunch, that's my advice.
PLAYBOY: Yet you wouldn't do that with Madonna.
RODMAN: That was a flash in the past. Can we leave Madonna alone? She's a good woman. I hope she gets what she wants.
PLAYBOY: That was gallant. OK, let's talk about your job. How does today's NBA compare with the league of 10 years ago, when you were a rookie?
RODMAN: It's going downhill. The younger players have a whole different vibe, a different game. Some are big stars before they even play in our league, and right away they want to be more famous. Everyone wants to shoot. Everybody wants to be a big fucking star. But there are only about 20 real stars, and maybe four shining stars, in the league. Maybe one ultimate star.
PLAYBOY: Jordan? Or you?
RODMAN: Who cares? I just rack and roll.
PLAYBOY: You said four shining stars. Name them.
RODMAN: No, you name them. Go ahead. Knock yourself out.
PLAYBOY: Jordan, Shaq, you and Little Penny.
RODMAN: I don't care. I don't like the whole athlete phenomenon.
PLAYBOY: Hasn't it made you rich? Tonight we watched you playing blackjack and craps with $1000 chips. You must have had $30,000 in front of you.
RODMAN: I've got between $25 million and $50 million, and I fucking E.F. Huttoned it, dude. I earned it.
PLAYBOY: You got the money and three championship rings for being a great rebounder, the one who's famous for how much he studies the game. Even your critics say you might have the best court sense since Magic Johnson. Chamberlain was bigger and possibly better, but aren't you the thinkingest rebounder?
RODMAN: I study my craft. I can visualize the court, the ball and the action on the rim all at once. Never the other player. I think the game, not the people in it.
PLAYBOY: When you joined Chicago you spent hours in the gym rebounding for Jordan and Scottie Pippen.
RODMAN: Studying. Programming my mind. I study the people who shoot the ball. The way they like to shoot, where the ball likes to come off when they miss—you get a feel for it. Then when the game starts I can let my mind relax and go into that feel, the flow of the game. It's like rolling dice. Sometimes you get a feel for the dice. You can feel a seven coming. The ball is funny like that; I'll watch the ball—even watching a game on TV—and know if it's going off to the right or to the left.
PLAYBOY: Do you think teenagers such as Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant and Jermaine O'Neal know their craft?
RODMAN: They're not here just because somebody said they were good, are they? They have real talent. They had the feeling, now they have to show us they're that good. I think they can do it, but they haven't yet.
PLAYBOY: Are younger players worth what they're getting paid?
RODMAN: Paying players $90 million is ridiculous. Even $30 million—think of the lifetimes people work to get that much money. If you're going to pay players $90 million, I say they should run the team. Get out of the way. But if you are going to pay this ridiculous money, pay the players who are worth it. Not the ones who haven't done it yet. Pay the ones who win. Pay the ones who are out there giving you 110 percent every night.
PLAYBOY: People might be surprised to hear Dennis Rodman complain about overhyped NBA players.
RODMAN: Fine, but you know what? I am about to do something that has never been done in the history of sport. Before next season I am going to sign a $9 million or $10 million contract and tell the team, g"If I'm not worth it, don't pay me. If I don't play up to that contract, keep the money." I'll play the whole year for free.
PLAYBOY: Do you mean that?
RODMAN: That's right.
PLAYBOY: This is a pledge you're making here tonight?
RODMAN: It is. I'm already giving money back. When I come off suspension, I'm giving my pay to charity for the first 11 games. That's a million dollars.
PLAYBOY: Does it sting to be suspended—kicked out of the game for a month?
RODMAN: It gave me time to clear my head. Sometimes my life is so fucked up I don't know what's happening to me. I need time.
PLAYBOY: You're no longer part of Nike's ad roster, are you?
RODMAN: So I have no Nike deal. Nike is a swoosh in the past.
PLAYBOY: The league has threatened serious action if you misbehave again. There has been talk of a lifetime ban. Pippen says you learn nothing from all your crime and punishment. Will you be

"In my whole life I have had between 25 and 30 women. Maybe five good ones."

ROAST

more careful?
RODMAN: No. If I fuck up, I fuck up. I live in the here and now, and I am not dead yet. But if I die tomorrow, I'll die with a smile on my face.
PLAYBOY: Suppose you punch a coach tomorrow. Could you smile at a lifetime ban?
RODMAN: That won't happen. They will never do that. I am too much of a hot commodity. The NBA won't say goodbye to me. They need me. The NBA is a cripple and I am the crutch. Ha! They tell me to act like a typical athlete, but they are playing both sides of the fence. I get attention. They profit off me. But I am jiving those fogies and they can't do a damn thing about it.
PLAYBOY: The Bulls reportedly ordered you to tone it down. How did that work? Did coach Phil Jackson or owner Jerry Reinsdorf call you in?
RODMAN: They don't talk to me. In a sense they want to control me, but they really want me to go out in the games and do my thing.
PLAYBOY: You loved Chuck Daly, your first pro coach. Then his championship team was dismantled. Daly was bounced and you were traded.
RODMAN: Chuck Daly was a loving, caring man who let you be a man. We won championships. It was a phase I went through.
PLAYBOY: Are you a role model?
RODMAN: No. I don't ask people to look up to me. Nobody in the world is a role model except to his own kids. People think athletes and entertainers are role models for kids, but they're wrong. Kids today have more options than we ever had. They don't need me to show them. These kids are 15 years old, partying their asses off. Every day is Woodstock. But I do ask people to respect the individuality I bring to the table.
PLAYBOY: You are a role model for individualists.
RODMAN: People say they don't want our young black kids looking like Dennis Rodman. I'm not asking for that. If it's what they choose, that's their business.
PLAYBOY: Do you want to be back with the Bulls next year?
RODMAN: Very much.
PLAYBOY: Do you care whether Jackson coaches next year?
RODMAN: It's important. You need to have confidence in a coach. I need a good vibe. I call Phil Jackson Lord of Lords—he is psychic. I have had two great coaches in my life, Chuck Daly and Phil Jackson. I don't want any more coaches.
PLAYBOY: If you were uncool enough to coach, what team rules would you have?
RODMAN: Show up for the game. Don't jive my ass. That's all you need.
PLAYBOY: Are you friends with Michael Jordan?
RODMAN: I told you I don't give a fuck about anybody in the NBA. I don't hang with athletes. Hanging with Michael Jordan is supposed to be big news? Please.
PLAYBOY: You trashed some stars in your book: David Robinson is gutless, Pippen can be intimidated. How did they react?
RODMAN: They didn't. I think they respected me for being myself.
PLAYBOY: Talk about a few of your colleagues. How would you describe Michael Jordan?
RODMAN: He's an intriguing, special performer.
PLAYBOY: Scottie Pippen?
RODMAN: A major star in his own world.
PLAYBOY: Charles Barkley?
RODMAN: The Reggie White of the NBA.
PLAYBOY: Shaquille O'Neal?
RODMAN: The future.
PLAYBOY: Do you think NBA commissioner David Stern would like to kick you out of the league?
RODMAN: I don't give a damn what David Stern thinks. He's not my fucking father. I don't care what Stern thinks, but I'll tell you what he thinks. He thinks I'm good for the league. David Stern is a closet Dennis Rodman fan.
PLAYBOY: Daly is often called your father figure. The same goes for James Rich, the Oklahoma mailman who took you into his home. Have you been looking for a father since Philander Rodman left when you were three years old?
RODMAN: I don't think that's true.
PLAYBOY: How did you manage without one?
RODMAN: I got used to it. Anyway, a man can't make you be a man. You have to do that yourself. You figure out that life is unpredictable and complicated and that you may not be happy. That's when you become a man.
PLAYBOY: Your father finally wrote to you last year. He sent you a letter from the Philippines.
RODMAN: I didn't get it.
PLAYBOY: After 32 years, he said he wanted to meet you.
RODMAN: He tried to. To me he's just another person trying to get a piece of the action. I don't hate the guy, but hey, I made it without him for all these years. If I met him I'd treat him like anybody else—like the people in the casino who want an autograph. After I got through with everybody else I would shake his hand, too, and say, g"How you doing? Nice to meet you."
PLAYBOY: And move on.
RODMAN: That's it.
PLAYBOY: Like your vindication with the photographer. What goes around——
RODMAN: Comes around.
PLAYBOY: Is it true that you were so shy as a kid that you had to be pushed off the school bus?
RODMAN: I wasn't really who I am until later. I was shy. I had the same feelings as the other kids, but on the outside I was just going through the motions. Other kids don't give you the option of being happy, being yourself.
PLAYBOY: Did you ever try religion?
RODMAN: Went to church every Sunday until I was 21. I grew up Christian, Baptist, but I could be it all. I do believe in a holy spirit. I don't think you need to go to church to pray. That almighty spirit is everywhere. God is out there working.
PLAYBOY: Does he or she have a special plan for you?
RODMAN: No. I have no purpose at all. I mean, we can always pray to the holy spirit to whisk us away and make everything better, but who knows if that prayer gets there? It's only a mirage.
PLAYBOY: It's probably safe to say that your God isn't some bearded giant wearing a white robe.
RODMAN: Totally safe.
PLAYBOY: Maybe white robes and a boa?
RODMAN: Who knows? He might have on a thong.
PLAYBOY: There is a bit of your legend that doesn't make sense—your theft of 50 watches when you were a janitor at DFW airport. Everyone in the airport can see the security cameras all around. Didn't you know you would be caught?
RODMAN: Maybe I did it to get caught. Sometimes in life you have to light some dynamite, see if it blows up.
PLAYBOY: In a bid for popularity, you gave free watches to almost everyone you knew.

RODMAN: I didn't need popularity. But I didn't need that many watches, and I didn't take them to sell them. It was more to try something different, see what happens.

PLAYBOY: You must have felt alone the night you spent in jail. What was it like in an airport jail?

RODMAN: It's a holding pen. They handcuff you. You sit and wait until the police come pick you up and take you to real jail.

PLAYBOY: Before you finally found basketball stardom at Southeastern Oklahoma State, the James Rich family took you in. You befriended teenager Bryne Rich after he killed a friend in a hunting accident, and you lived with the Riches almost as a son.

RODMAN: Bryne is still my best friend. We were a couple of lost souls. For us, life was fucking confusion plus a bunch of goddamn agony. You just hoped for some part-time happiness once in a while.

PLAYBOY: What do the Riches think of your celebrity?

RODMAN: They're not starstruck. Or they don't show it. One thing about people in Oklahoma, they don't show what they're thinking.

PLAYBOY: Did you dream of playing in the NBA?

RODMAN: Basketball wasn't my dream. I never considered it.

PLAYBOY: No posters of Chamberlain or Bill Russell?

RODMAN: If I had been like that, I wouldn't be here now. No, I didn't want to be in the NBA. But I always had an idea something was going to happen to me. It didn't start until I was over 30 years old and learned to express myself.

PLAYBOY: You were 31 when Detroit police found you sleeping in your truck outside the Palace in Auburn Hills. You had a loaded rifle with you. You have said you were thinking of killing yourself. Instead, you decided to change your life.

RODMAN: That was the beginning of salvation. I was 32 years old before I found out who I really am. From then on I just did it, whatever it was.

PLAYBOY: Soon came the tattoos, nose rings and wild hair.

RODMAN: If not for that I would have been more subdued, just an athlete. But I'm having my childhood again from zero to 20. Right now I might be five years old.

[*Soon the Rodman party was in the limo to Paradise, a nightclub where Dennis bought more rounds of drinks. He handed his Peruvian surfer friend, Pepe, a fistful of $1000 chips for safekeeping—the bulge in Pepe's pocket easily held $20,000 in chips. Paradise is a gentlemen's club, a lap-dance joint. No touching; topless women writhe to disco music a half inch from men who pay to be teased. Dennis, who had already bought numerous drinks and flagons of coffee, offered to buy another round—not drinks this time, but lap dances.*]

PLAYBOY: Thanks, but no thanks.

RODMAN: Come on. Just because you're married?

PLAYBOY: Exactly.

RODMAN: Your wife ain't God, man! She can't see through walls.

[*He playfully shoved us toward a dancer. Without thinking we shoved back. As bodyguard Williams shot us a glance it occurred to us: Had we just missed a chance to earn a quick $200,000? Once again, much of our subsequent talk was shouted over pounding disco music. Sometimes D, as his friends call him, was being m"lapped" as we spoke.*]

PLAYBOY: How many of the breasts here are all-natural?

RODMAN: I'd say 40 percent. What are you drinking? Let's get three more Jägers over here.

PLAYBOY: Jägermeister—the shot-glass drink of champions. You have had more than a few tonight. How can you drink so much and still perform so well on the court?

RODMAN: What the fuck did you say?

PLAYBOY: Do you have a hangover cure?

RODMAN: There is no such thing as a hangover cure.

PLAYBOY: How can you drink so much and be so fit?

RODMAN: I'm talking to you, right? I am on fire! This will be a great interview for you. Because I prepared my mind, bro. I can prepare my mind to party or do business. I can do both. Now, I don't party like this during the season, at least not every day. You have to pick your times. There are times when you need to do business, be physically inclined, do your job. That's when I do business first and party later.

PLAYBOY: Are you ever alone?

RODMAN: Game days I keep to myself.

PLAYBOY: Your workouts are grueling. You'll lift weights for two hours before a game, then run the court and tussle with some of the world's finest athletes, then pump iron for two more hours before you shower. Is that how you get the alcohol out? How much weight do you lift in a day?

RODMAN: I can lift what the mind can endure.

PLAYBOY: What thoughts do you have when the ball is in play? Are you thinking in words?

RODMAN: It's a melody, brother. No matter what the tempo of the game, it's always a melody.

PLAYBOY: Off the court, can you control yourself?

RODMAN: [*Shrugs*] Sometimes I don't know what the fuck is going on. I don't. I really don't want to do some of the things I do.
PLAYBOY: What's taboo to you? Anything?
RODMAN: I don't believe in limits. Killing yourself is the only limit.
PLAYBOY: Bob Knight thinks you're a fake. He calls you g"the greatest hustler in the history of mankind."
RODMAN: He said hustler?
PLAYBOY: Hustler.
RODMAN: Then call me Mr. Flynt! I'll be the number one hustler.
PLAYBOY: You wrote that there was a surge in AIDS awareness among NBA players after Magic Johnson announced he was HIV-positive.
RODMAN: Then it went back to the way it was. Athletes are like anybody else. They might plan to use a rubber, but then it doesn't feel right, so they take it off.
PLAYBOY: Doesn't every team have an AIDS meeting—some doctor or therapist coming in to tell all the players to use condoms?
RODMAN: That lasts about 15 minutes.
PLAYBOY: How much NBA sex do you think is safe sex?
RODMAN: It's probably about 50-50.
PLAYBOY: Are we headed for a scourge of AIDS among pro athletes?
RODMAN: Why blame the athletes? Athletes didn't start the idea of fucking without condoms. They aren't role models and they don't set a goddamn precedent for society. Don't point to the athletes—they're just like anybody else.
PLAYBOY: Except for being young and rich and having lots of women begging them for sex.
RODMAN: Wear you out.
PLAYBOY: What if you learned you were HIV-positive? How would you react?
RODMAN: What can anyone do? Anybody who has it, what can you do but blame yourself?
PLAYBOY: Such a sad topic. We should try to lighten up. Tell us what you think is your best color.
RODMAN: White.
PLAYBOY: For purity.
RODMAN: Girls that are white. I like pink, too. The pink and white clouds of love.
PLAYBOY: What's your best feature?
RODMAN: Best feature? Muscle control. Talk about muscle control— g"Oh, oh daddy!" It makes for the best fucking around.
PLAYBOY: You have women chasing you from coast to coast. GQ says you might be our greatest m"vulva magnet." Is that a heavy reputation to carry around? Can you live up to your image as a sexual performer?
RODMAN: I don't see it like that. I don't have to prove myself.
PLAYBOY: You imply in your book that you sometimes fake in bed.
RODMAN: I did?
PLAYBOY: You say that sometimes you yell and shout to make the woman you're with feel good about her performance.
RODMAN: Look, I have sex a lot. Sometimes it's just going through the motions. I've faked. Women are always faking that shit—I'm just flipping the coin.
PLAYBOY: Another example of your versatility. You have also made headlines by wearing makeup and dressing in drag. Many people believe you're gay or bisexual, though you have never admitted having a gay experience. What's the current state of your sexuality?
RODMAN: I wouldn't be ashamed to say I was gay. I'm the first to say I would fuck a man's brains out. Giving it or getting it, taking or giving, don't matter—it's all about getting that sensation you want. And on that day I want to fuck a man, I'll announce it. I'll make sure everyone in the world knows I'm gay.
PLAYBOY: But you haven't actually done it yet.
RODMAN: I mentally masturbate. I have sex in my mind. It happens all the time.
PLAYBOY: Are you attracted to men?
RODMAN: We all have a little homosexual in us. We pat each other on the ass. We kiss. I kiss transsexuals. If I think a guy is attractive I can tell him, g"You are a beautiful motherfucker." I'll hug him and kiss him.
PLAYBOY: If you kiss a man in friendship, does it matter if he's good-looking?
RODMAN: [*Pauses*] Yes.
PLAYBOY: What does your mother think when she sees you in makeup and a gown?
RODMAN: She doesn't care. She's got a new house.
PLAYBOY: Do you ever wear women's clothing in private?
RODMAN: I wear it once in a while. It shows that I am not just an athlete. It shows that I'm not afraid of society. I'm unconventional.
PLAYBOY: You don't really have a gay streak, do you?
RODMAN: I have done a lot for the gay community. I make it more acceptable. I am an entertainer, a phenomenon and a historical landmark.
PLAYBOY: You say you don't mind fantasizing about gay sex, but you always stop short of actually doing it.
RODMAN: Sex should be a mystery. You need some mystery to it. You don't have that if everybody's the same. And if that's not true then everybody would be gay and lesbian, wouldn't they?
[*We finished on Sunday in his penthouse suite at the Mirage, high above the special-effects volcano. Rodman was shirtless, stretching, just waking up for breakfast. It was four p.m. Rodman's female companion, Chicago businessman Bill Marovitz and bodyguard Williams were watching the NBA All-Star Game on TV. Rodman watched, but looked bored. He said the All-Star Game is over-hyped. Forty-eight hours before his return to the court, Rodman spoke softly.*]
PLAYBOY: When was the last time you were alone?
RODMAN: When I sleep, I'm alone.

"I have had two great coaches in my life, Chuck Daly and Phil Jackson. I don't want any more coaches."

PLAYBOY: Your agent, Dwight Manley, tells us that you sleepwalk. He'll be sleeping on the couch in your house or a hotel suite when you lumber out, push him aside and lie down.
RODMAN: No, no. That was kidding around.
PLAYBOY: But you do sleepwalk?
RODMAN: Sometimes. Everybody does.
PLAYBOY: That's not true.
RODMAN: Yes, you do it. Everybody sleepwalks once in a while.
PLAYBOY: Other than partying, have you prepared for the season's second half?
RODMAN: My mind is ready.
PLAYBOY: Do you have anything planned for your return?
RODMAN: Be in fucking character, that's it. When the camera is on, the shows begin.
PLAYBOY: You say you'll give your salary back next year if your performance doesn't measure up. Who decides whether you were good enough?
RODMAN: [*Smiling*] Me.
PLAYBOY: You say you don't plan ahead, but it sounds like you have all the bases covered. Is Bob Knight right about you?
RODMAN: They say I'm either a genius or the most stupid, illiterate motherfucker in the world. Some people call it clever. Do you know what I call it? Brilliant. I call it brilliant. Wile E. Coyote, that's me. Wile E. Coyote.
PLAYBOY: And celebrity?
RODMAN: It pays for me and my child.
PLAYBOY: You don't see your daughter much.
RODMAN: Alexis, she's going on nine. She's my role model. She's so beautiful. You know what breaks my heart? Seeing her so shy. All the kids talk behind her back. Even at the private school she goes to, she can't escape being my daughter. We talk on the phone and she says, g"Daddy, I don't want to go to school." It's making me more sheltered. This fucking image of mine—sometimes I can't deal with it. I have two veins keeping me going—my emotion and my little girl.
PLAYBOY: You were a shy kid.
RODMAN: I'm still shy, brother. Watch me with Jay Leno. He'll ask something personal and I'll look down at the ground. I can't look up. I saw Jimi Hendrix on an old Dick Cavett show; he did the same thing. He was shy. Now I see Alexis doing that same look.
PLAYBOY: How often do you see your daughter?
RODMAN: I don't see her. My ex-wife has her. I have a stupid-ass ex-wife writing a book full of bullshit. We were married only 82 days, but now that I have a little pocket money, she thinks, I'll get rich off his fame. I'm like O.J. Everything I do, people want to make money off it.
PLAYBOY: Do you attempt to see your daughter?
RODMAN: I may have to get lawyers to get me the right to see her. I'd spend all the money it takes. And before I ever have another kid, I want to give my all to Alexis.

PLAYBOY: Do your family problems make you cynical?
RODMAN: No. They make me real. I accept them and go on.
PLAYBOY: What contact do you have with Annie, your ex-wife?
RODMAN: I call her and ask for Alexis.
PLAYBOY: Do you think men and women can learn to get along?
RODMAN: Of course not.
PLAYBOY: Do you want to get married again?
RODMAN: It's hard to go on a scavenger hunt. It's hard to tell who is real and who's only after your money. I had a girl sue me for giving her herpes, which I didn't do.
PLAYBOY: Do you believe in marriage?
RODMAN: I think something happens when you get married. Maybe you made love to your wife before, but it's not the same because now you have to. And you can really make love to the same person only so many times; after that you just go through the motions. You're just fucking. You can make love to a girlfriend. You make love to your girlfriend and your standbys because you don't want to lose them, but you have got to fuck your wife.
PLAYBOY: Last basketball question. Do you have any responsibility to the NBA?
RODMAN: The NBA can kiss my ass. That's their responsibility.
PLAYBOY: Are you misunderstood?
RODMAN: I'm not crazy. I am not Hannibal Lecter. That's the shock of Dennis Rodman if you get to know me—I'm very calm. I am a tidal wave of calm and I'm right here [*pointing to his eyes*], looking at you.

ANITA PATHAMMAVONG TAPS INTO HER INTUITION —AND YOURS

WRITTEN BY
ANITA PATHAMMAVONG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
EVAN WOODS

Our March 2020 Playmate, with the help of her mystical cards, is here to offer some much-needed spiritual counsel.

I started reading tarot cards about three years ago. I was going through a breakup and a lot of change was happening in my life, so my friends helped me learn how to do readings for myself. Tarot helped reassure me that things would turn out okay.

Eventually I became interested in oracle cards. Tarot and oracle readings both require you to get in touch with spirituality, but they're actually pretty different. To read tarot you really have to study and master the cards; it's very structured. With oracle cards, there's more room for creative and personalized interpretations. I like both, but I prefer oracle because it's so freewheeling and open-ended.

Whenever I do oracle readings I shuffle the deck and think to myself, What does the person receiving this reading need to get out of it? In a way, it's like being a psychic medium. You're not really reading the person; the cards are. It's your job to relay the messages from the cards to the person receiving them.

Humans are creatures of habit by nature, and it's natural to feel shaken right now. Change is always uncomfortable, but it always has something positive to offer. This quarantine is the perfect opportunity to be still and look inward; oracle cards can help with that. For me, oracle cards help me get in tune with myself and stay grounded. (We also just had a full moon, so it's an ideal time to reset intentions and start fresh.)

Oracle is also easy to learn. Anyone can pick up a deck and explore the cards without any formal training. I've been sheltering in place in New York for a few weeks now, and I've used the opportunity to do readings for myself and friends. I've also gone on Instagram Live a few times to do group readings—including for Playboy!

Right now people are feeling scared and panicked, but we have to remember that we're all in this together. Whether you're quarantined by yourself or with others, try to find new ways to connect with people. Stop and notice your surroundings. Find gratitude.

Anita's Revelation of Wisdom Guide

1. Shuffle the cards and set your intentions. What wisdom are you looking for? What are you struggling with right now?

2. Pick three cards out of the deck. The cards may (literally) jump out at you; other times you might have to use your intuition.

3. The first card you pick is the lesson to be learned. This will help guide you toward the source of your troubles.

4. The second card you pick is how it might be learned. This card can help you understand the situation better.

5. The final card you pick is wisdom revealed. This card helps you connect the dots between all three cards. It tells you how you can overcome a problem in your life and what you can learn from that "problem."

MELYXA MELNICHENKO

Instagram **@Melyxious**

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www.Jcsmooth.com | MUA **Neysha Arleen**

My name is Melyxa.
I am a Florida State
lover who enjoys
beach days and
mojitos. I love
mother nature,
animals and my
Family.

Tell us something surprising about you? I am .4-foot 7... a lot of people think I am taller.

Were you excited to shoot for playboy? Yes. I was very excited to shoot for playboy. I was so nervous, when I got to the actual area I kept shaking when the makeup artist was making me pretty. But very grateful so it's off my bucket list.

What inspires you? My inspiration is everything around me. I can get inspired to do many things on a different day from different occasions, I love nature, earth and helping others. knowledge gives me the most inspiration.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in modeling? I've been modeling for a long time. At 13 I got a scholarship for a modeling agency called John Castablancas in Florida. I have done local modeling for music videos, car and bike shows and I have always loved the energy modeling brings.

Who do you look up to in the modeling industry? In the model industry I look up to very few. Two of my favorites are Pamela Anderson and Coco Austin. I love them.

What are your hobbies? My hobbies are gardening, listening to music, writing music and reading.

Name three things on your bucket list? 3 things in my bucket list are one going to the Usha village in Honduras two taking may parents to Hawaii and 3 learning to speak Egyptian Arabic.

Turn-ons? Knowledgeable people turn me on intellectual conversations and salt and pepper hair turn me on too trust me if you can eat my brains out you can definitely have my body...

Turn-offs? My turn offs are lies, lack of respect and time.

Describe to us you perfect date. The perfect date for me would be on a windy clear day in a beach resort, getting massages then eating seafood, drinking wine, having intellectual conversations looking at the waves. While listening to 963 hz frequency music.

Which capital would you most like to visit and why? I would love to visit Cape town because of its beautiful scenery and beaches. I also heard their Bunny chow is amazing!

What is your Mantra? My mantra is simple: I close my eyes and say I am ready, I can and I will. The power of attraction is real.

CYNTHIA NIXON *Pierces* THE VEIL ON A DEFUNCT AMERICAN DREAM

The award-winning actress and activist talks to Playboy about her latest project, ***Stray Dolls***, and the dire straits of the U.S. working class—before the pandemic and now

BY **ANITA LITTLE**

When I call Cynthia Nixon at her home in New York, the state is in its sixth week of quarantine and Governor Andrew Cuomo has just met with President Trump to address the lack of funding for COVID-19 tests. Even though this is a press call for her upcoming indie project *Stray Dolls*, it's impossible not to launch into our respective stay-at-home lives.

"I'm homeschooling, like so many parents around the world," she tells me. "Homeschooling is now my middle name."

In addition to keeping up with her nine-year-old son (he's playing the role of Grandpa Joe in his classroom's harrowing Zoom rendition of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), the Emmy- and Tony-winning actress has been spending a lot of time thinking about her fellow New Yorkers. The pandemic has hit New York the hardest of any state in the country, with the number of confirmed cases nearing 200,000. As a former gubernatorial candidate who mounted a hotly contested challenge to Cuomo in 2018, Nixon doesn't mince words when I ask how she would grade the governor's response to the outbreak.

"One of the things art does is take someone who is behaving terribly and show how you might act similarly if your circumstances were that dire."

"I mean, hindsight is always 20/20, but I wish both our governor and our mayor had had a shelter-in-place earlier. I wish they'd closed schools a little earlier. That would've helped a lot," she says.

"Having said that, I think that being on television, communicating with people at a time when there is so little coherent information and telling them the truth is very, very important," she adds, referring to the governor's daily coronavirus briefings that have become a much-needed counterweight to the bewildering statements coming from the White House.

An outspoken progressive activist, Nixon has been using her platform, before quarantine and now, to draw attention to the most vulnerable people in her state—immigrants, the homeless, the poor and the incarcerated. (Correctional facilities can be hotbeds of contagion.)

Her career-long dedication to these issues explains her attraction to Stray Dolls, directed by Sonejuhi Sinha and released on VOD last month. Part Thelma and Louise–inspired queer love story, part immigration tale and part crime thriller, the film paints a stark portrait of the American dream's underbelly. In it, Nixon takes on a unique role: a sympathetic villain named Una who's a Polish emigre and owner of the seedy Poughkeepsie motel in which our characters toil and flail.

"She's got a lot of ambiguity to her. She is ruthless in a certain way, but I love her because we see she's not winning, right? She's winning compared to some of the people she preys upon. But she's in desperate straits herself," says Nixon.

And then there's the film's heroine, Riz, played by Geetanjali Thapa. Riz is another immigrant, from India in her case, whose murky past and formidable sense of self-preservation go against Hollywood's common characterization of South Asian women as docile and compliant. In the highly stratified pecking order of Una's motel empire, Una's race, legal status and time in America make her slightly better off than Riz, whom she hires as a cleaning woman. Una uses these small advantages to further exploit Riz and push her into a desperate life of crime. Riz's Sisyphean attempts to stay afloat only push fantasies of social mobility further out of reach as the plot takes one hard left after another. Viewers can ditch any hope for a "bootstraps" story.

"This is a survivor, a person of tremendous resources who will choose to survive, even if it means breaking the law," says Nixon of Riz. "Almost every person in the film behaves in a way that we would condemn, right? But I think one of the things art does is take someone who is behaving terribly and show how you might act similarly if your circumstances were that dire."

The feeling of working-class despair is palpable in Stray Dolls. It permeates all the characters, driving them to actions that are difficult to watch. In one of the film's opening scenes, a chain-smoking Una says to Riz, "You work hard, you make it here. You believe that?" One can't tell if it's meant to inspire or condescend.

The timing of the Stray Dolls release also stands as a stark reminder of how many people were already squeezed before the pandemic and are being shoved off the socioeconomic precipice now. More than 30 million Americans have filed for unemployment since mid-March, and the country is on track to experience its highest unemployment rate on record since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics started collecting monthly data in 1948.

"This moment that we're in, it's not like anything I've ever seen or ever expect to see again. One of the things it does is lay bare all the cracks and fissures that were already there," says Nixon, who has joined the call to cancel rent and mortgage payments during the quarantine. "People who have tons of money are doing just fine, and they're even getting big handouts from the federal government to their companies, whether they need it or not. People who are living

paycheck to paycheck, if they don't work for a week, they can't pay their rent."

Many Americans received $1,200 coronavirus stimulus checks in April, an amount that will likely have to stretch impossibly far given how long some of us have been laid off, furloughed or working with reduced income. Although it's clear to economists and policymakers that a one-time check won't cut it for a months-long pandemic, Democrat-led efforts for additional payments are being stymied.

"What's the alternative? It's not something we can let just happen," Nixon says.

Nixon was an ardent supporter of former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who was edged out of the race in April and whose platform centered on affordable health care and housing.

"That's a whole other conversation, but I think if people hadn't ganged up on him, he would have been the nominee and he would have defeated Trump. I really sincerely hope that Biden will be able to."

As we end our conversation, Nixon brings up the importance of art like Stray Dolls at a time such as this. It can be escapist, yes, but it can also act as a mirror held up to society, exposing the mendacities and hypocrisies that result in calamity for an entire class of people. It can even ask us to agitate for a fairer world.

"So many of us are just trapped at home," she says. "One of the things we do, other than cooking and cleaning and homeschooling, is turn on the TV. Stray Dolls is a really beautiful piece of art—a haunting story that stays with you."

"This moment that we're in, it's not like anything I've ever seen or ever expect to see again. One of the things it does is lay bare all the cracks and fissures that were already there." "

Sex *and* Spirituality

Combine to Create
Your Favorite
Bedroom Toys

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Perhaps you've never truly taken the time to consider what goes into making some of your favorite sex toys, or maybe the process doesn't interest you enough to give it a real thought. Regardless, I'm willing to bet that you've never thought about the spirituality that goes into crafting some of your favorite bedroom props.

But such is the case when it's Anjani Siddhartha who's creating them.

The separation between sexuality and spirituality is a tale as old as time, and a fable at that. Although we don't have nearly enough time (or energy, let's be real) to deconstruct the root of that conditioning, we can focus on how the dance between the two can actually create a harmony that few allow themselves the pleasure to experience. Siddhartha wants to aid those who are on that journey.

Playboy interviews Anjani Siddhartha, the in-house dildo artist at the Doc Johnson sex toy company

BY **BRUNA**

The artist stumbled upon her job at Doc Johnson, the largest sex toy manufacturer in the U.S., after a friend asked if she'd like to replace him in a design job. Going into the job blind yet open, Siddhartha was shocked to realize she'd be sculpting sex toys—but it was a task she wasn't going to back down from. She designs the sex toys either by making casts from adult performers or sculpting them vein by vein from her imagination. Painstakingly getting the shape of a penis head just right is simply part of her job.

"To me it is art," Siddhartha tells me. "I liked the environment and having my own studio, so I started designing that day."

Enter the Doc Johnson headquarters and you'll find Siddhartha tucked away in her own erotic cave, handcrafting some of the brand's most famous dildos and other adult toys while surrounded by art and objects that inspire her.

"I have been very sensual and spiritual all my life, so my inspiration has always been fine arts and the sensual paintings of India," Siddhartha says.

"When I design a piece, it is just as if I am working on a sacred piece that will bring physical and emotional pleasure to thousands of people all over the world," she says. "It is part of my way of life, creating and shaping an object that will bring pleasure to many. Also, it is part of my meditation of being in the moment when I am sculpting."

From the devotional tattoos that decorate her arms to the intentional focus that is hard to ignore while watching her work, it's clear Siddhartha is no stranger to spirituality.

Her primary goal is always to "be here and now and fully aware of the unity of myself as a consciousness using the body-mind vehicle to express myself in the physical universe with integrity. And to use this very moment to live to the fullest following my passion."

Through her spirituality and deep connection to her own sensuality, Siddhartha has managed to design and craft unique bedroom toys for over two decades with the objective of providing consumers the chance to experience something greater than themselves.

"Through sensual experiences, we can transcend to a place where body and mind sensations can be refined to feel divine," she says. "There's unity in diversity."

Nonetheless, Siddhartha is aware that much of her life is rooted in the intersection of two concepts that don't usually mix. For many, sex toys are still considered taboo. Sprinkle that with some religious viewpoints and you might as well light a fire, because that conversation is going to get heated.

Still, Siddhartha says she's hopeful that through her work, people can reconnect with the parts of themselves that have been silenced, either out of shame or judgement, because that duality is alive in all of us whether we acknowledge it or not.

"We live in the world of duality, so it is expected to always have opposite views on every subject," she says. "But the world is ever-changing, and if people open their minds to other possibilities they can be more tolerant of the ways others live their lives."

Although the jury is still out on that, Siddhartha can't deny that the sex toy industry has changed tremendously during her time at Doc Johnson.

"The internet has become the biggest influence in the industry, as I am sure it is for most enterprises and life in general," she says. "Now we can go to forums and see what customers are looking for, reactions to products, what others are doing in the same space. We do surveys, and also have many celebrities endorsing products. It has made the industry a bit more mainstream."

The industry's audience has also become more inclusive.

"Now it is not a male-dominated space, but also couples and women," Siddhartha says, adding that it's no longer seen as the "sleazy, dark store in a bad part of town, but the fancy boutique where ladies and couples buy their products to experiment with new sensual adventures."

Not only that, but, as Siddhartha has proven for more than 20 years, there is actual artistry put into the creation of your favorite bedroom toys, with the intention of spiritually putting you back in touch with your sensuality—whether that's done with yourself or with someone else.

"It is part of my way of life, creating and shaping an object that will bring pleasure to many. It is part of my meditation."

COURTESY **OF SUBJECT**

PLAYBACK

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
THE PLAYBOY ARCHIVES

Snapshots from our history courtesy of the Playboy Archives

A young Arnold Schwarzenegger grips a snifter of California brandy as model and actor Joyce Mandel grips him. Photographer Mario Casilli captured the pair for It's a Naive Little California Brandy, an article by food writer Emanuel Greenberg about the growing popularity of the Golden State's version of the French spirit. An accomplished bodybuilder but not yet the cultural heavyweight he is today, in 1975 the future governor of California was already a five-time Mr. Olympia winner. Two years after his PLAYBOY shoot, he spoke candidly about sex and bodybuilding with the magazine's sister publication Oui while promoting the documentary Pumping Iron. "We had girls backstage giving head, then all of us went out and I won," he said. "It didn't bother me at all; in fact, I went out there feeling like King Kong." Check out Greenberg's take on delicious California brandies, including classic cocktail recipes, at iPlayboy.com—where you can also read the January 1988 Playboy Interview with Schwarzenegger.

CALIFORNIA, 1975

PLAYBACK

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
THE PLAYBOY ARCHIVES

Snapshots from our history courtesy of the Playboy Archives

CHICAGO, 1972

Civil rights legends (from left) T.R.M. Howard, Thomas Todd, Jesse Jackson and Cecil Hale attend a PUSH event at Hugh Hefner's original Playboy Mansion. Jackson had founded PUSH, or People United to Serve Humanity, in 1971. Jackson and Hefner remained friends across the decades. After Hefner's September 2017 death, Jackson wrote about him for PLAYBOY's 2017 special tribute edition celebrating the life of the legendary magazine founder. "When Hugh Hefner's light passed through the prism of my life, what I saw was a powerful ray of support for racial and social justice around the world," Jackson wrote. "Hefner brought people together from all walks of life to talk and to learn from each other. He did so much to illuminate the darkness." Jackson was the subject of the renowned Playboy Interview in November 1969 and again in June 1984; to read both, visit iPlayboy.com.

LIVING IN BALANCE

Alexa Mann

Instagram **@thealexamann**

Photography by **Iya Shengeliya | @ya_shengelia_photographer**
PR **Mariia Borovenska | @mariborovenskaya**

Looking at your social networks, you travel a lot and visit the most interesting places. Tell us which cities are your favorite, and where do they know how to arrange the most beautiful parties? Hello yes it's true I'm addicted to traveling, it's one of the most amazing things you can do, I speak 7 languages and love to practice them. My favorite destinations so far are Miami, St Barthes, French Riviera, Capri, Mykonos, Ibiza and UAE. All those places are well known for parties, top on my list would be Mykonos Miami and French Riviera, where people are free and open.

Imagine that you have 7 days of vacation that you need to spend as interesting as possible, what would you choose for yourself? I would choose a relaxed holiday in an exotic place with someone I love by my side, to feel the beauty of the place in more intense colors, my dream destination is Bora Bora, I still haven't been there.

If we talk about your profession as a model, what is the most difficult and interesting thing in your work? First, you always have to find balance between work and rest, secondly you have to be fit healthy and look after yourself emotionally physically and spiritually because your looks reflect how you feel inside.

Tell us about photoshoot for Playboy Cover? The photo shoot was in UAE on the yacht in famous Marina Harbour, with an amazing photographer and beautiful outfits, we had to shoot early morning before Dubai sun gets so hot, so I had to wake up super early, but it was worth it.

Share the secret of how to stay so beautiful and feminine and at the same time combine a successful career? I practice meditation, exercise every day, eat healthy, keep my daily routine and sleeping schedule at check and most importantly I do what I love and I choose people I deal with, not everyone gets to experience my energy, I protect it.

Let's talk about your education, what is your profession? By profession I'm a linguist, I studied languages and literature followed by a master's degree in international relations, so I'm a global educated hot beauty inside and within.

Have you ever taken part in beauty contest? Yes 7 times, 3 times I take the crown so I'm a beauty queen x 3, something to tell my grandchildren about later.

Particular attention always belongs to your style, you have great taste, tell us who helps you with your outfits? Are there any designers

you like the most? Mostly I style and direct photo shoots myself unless it's for a particular brand, I also choose brands I accept to work with based how they match my style and philosophy, there are many amazing brands I worked with and constantly I collaborate with new ones especially in fashion shows.

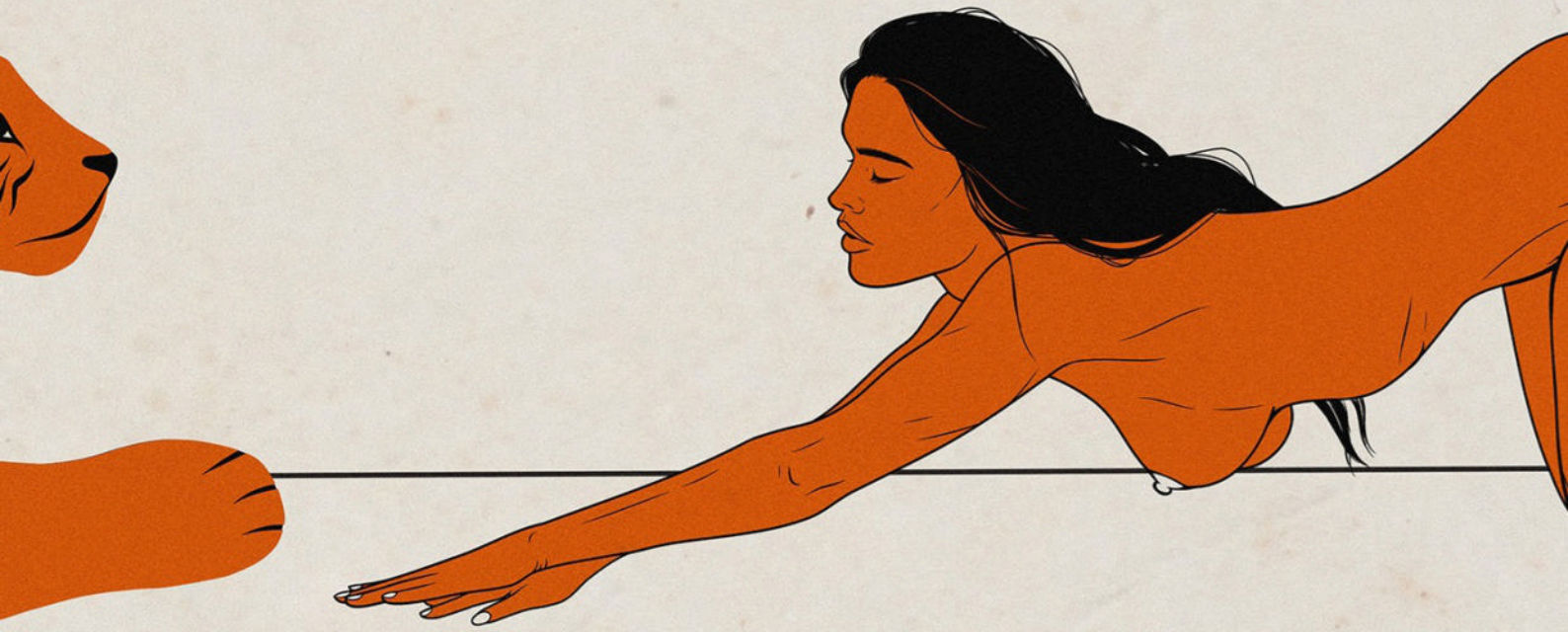
Do you have places of power that allow you to recover after a difficult work week? Absolutely, everyone should have them, I try to go into mountains or close to the sea, sometimes a forest and stay there some time alone, in particular I love Peru, a magical place where I connect with myself.

Can you talk about your favorite brands or fashion designers? My favourite brand is Chanel because it's classic and it makes a statement, for swimwear I like the God Save Queens they have very unique and stylish products.

Tell us about your dreams and plans, what does the girl who reflects the mood of the era want? Somehow all my dreams always come true, for now I'll keep it a secret ;) What I can tell is I choose to live in balance emotionally spiritually and physically in all aspects of my life and that is a plan.

‘Tiger King’ *Star*

Saff Saffery Opens Up About Sex, Drugs and Joe Exotic



Saff Saffery tells Playboy about his attack, his gender identity and his unexpected new life

BY **RYAN GAJEWSKI**
ILLUSTRATION BY **KATIE BAILIE**

A key draw of Tiger King, the Netflix series that has become 2020's omnipresent pop culture phenomenon, is that each cast member seems more eccentric and baffling than the last. This helps to explain why zoo employee Saff Saffery has emerged as a breakout star: He's one of the few voices of reason on the show.

Saffery worked for Joseph Maldonado-Passage, a.k.a. Joe Exotic, at the G.W. Zoo in Oklahoma for nearly a decade before leaving in 2018. Footage of the 2013 tiger attack that led to the amputation of the Hawaii native's left hand is one of the most visceral and jarring moments on a show lousy with jaw-dropping reveals.

Saffery seems conflicted about his decision to move to southern California and take a job that doesn't involve animals, given his enduring passion for wildlife. But he's certainly enjoying his celebrity—relishing photo opportunities with excited fans during essential shopping trips and even joining Cameo to deliver heartfelt messages at $75 a pop.

Taking a call from Playboy last weekend, he was as upbeat and forthright as ever while discussing his life before, during and after the filming of the series. Saffery, who turns 34 this year, spoke at length about the show's depiction of sexuality, including Joe Exotic's marriages, the continued investigation into the disappearance of Carole Baskin's husband, the one thing he wishes the show did differently and the tweets stating Saffery was misgendered on the show. Attention, Hollywood casting directors: He also has thoughts on whether a certain Twilight hunk should portray him in a hypothetical film adaptation.

"Carole's a very different kind of person. She's not your average Carole walking around the street."

PLAYBOY: Tiger King includes footage from the tiger attack that cost you your hand. Is that a moment you think about often?

SAFFERY: More so lately. It's definitely been part of my conversation, but I've kind of pushed past it. Other traumatic events have happened in my life that I've done the same to. The documentary showed the clip, which my family and friends hadn't seen. That brought it to a more real state as far as my relationships, because they're like, "Holy smokes, we had no idea it was like that." They only know what I tell them.

Of course, when the news covered it in 2013, they never showed that clip at all. It was interesting to revisit it in such a real form, because before that it was very cosmetic: It was very "Yeah, this happened. He bit me, and I went to the hospital, and that's it." Now they've seen it from front to back. I don't think there's any negative that I pull from it. I got through it, and I moved on, and I keep doing so every day.

PLAYBOY: Your situation is certainly inspiring for anyone going through similar trauma.

SAFFERY: It's all about leaning on each other too. John Reinke, the park manager, had already lost his legs at that point. I met him when he had no legs, and what they don't show is that he walked me through it hand in hand. It was always nice to have him around to help me navigate being an amputee. The best we can do is share our experiences. You never know who you're helping out.

PLAYBOY: Did you feel pressured to come back to the zoo right away?

SAFFERY: No, no, no. I never felt pressured, and I know it was somewhat portrayed that way. I can understand that, but what people need to realize is what I've said a hundred times, and I'll say it again: There was nothing in that hospital for me. I wanted out of there so badly because I knew the longer I stayed, the bigger of a story this was going to become. If the story got too big, then the park could have been shut down, and that's the animals' home. Where would they go from there? If I was pressured by anything, it was my passion for those animals.

PLAYBOY: You started at the G.W. Zoo in 2010, after you got out of the Army. What is a job interview with Joe Exotic like?

SAFFERY: I don't think we even had an interview. I didn't know who he was; after the Army I just googled "getting to interact with tigers." I was in my late 20s, and we started corresponding by e-mail. We went back and forth for about a week because I was still in Fort Sill. When I finally made it out there, I remember waiting in the front gift shop, and they called him over the radio. He walks through the door—and mind you, I'd been on his website, so I'd seen pictures of him. I knew exactly who he was, but I didn't know his personality. He comes in 100 percent Joe Exotic, right off the bat. The second you meet him, he just solidifies everything you think of him.

PLAYBOY: There's so much sexuality to this show, between the polyamory and the tigers being used to attract women in Vegas. What do you make of all that?

SAFFERY: When you look at a tiger, the only thing you can feel is attraction to it. It's a beautiful animal, and not only is it beautiful, it's dangerous and mysterious. In my opinion, women like bad boys. What's more badass than a tiger? I'll wait, but I don't think you'll find something. [laughs] I couldn't tell you how many times I've seen people react with shock-appeal when they see a tiger. From kids all the way up to adults, it's just something everyone's attracted to.

PLAYBOY: What's your take on Joe's sex appeal and how he's so alluring to younger men?

SAFFERY: Boy, that's definitely something I stayed away from when I was on the park. I stayed as far outside that world as possible because it really had nothing to do with the animals. And this is just my opinion, but if you look at everyone in that documentary, they're living their life their way, and they're all unapologetically happy. Who am I to even touch that?

The only time it ever came into play in conversations between Joe and me was if it affected animal care. Travis was one of the ones who brought that up the most. Travis, he was a joy of life, but he got into everything and made it so hard for the employees to do anything. He was just a mess. He would hide in the bushes and scare them as they were trying to do chores. It was funny, but it slowed down the chore day for sure.

PLAYBOY: How loving were Joe's marriages?

SAFFERY: As loving as one could say. I know that these boys, these men, came in and were just dumped with all of this: "Here's this, here's that, here's this, here's that." I am not John, and I am not Travis, so I've never been put in that position. As far as what I could see with my own eyes, yeah, it was loving. I'm sure there was more to it; I just never got involved.

PLAYBOY: The show seems to suggest that John and Travis identified as straight.

SAFFERY: I don't think they were ever able to identify in general because people just assumed, "Oh, you're with Joe? You're Joe's husband? Oh, you're gay." I can tell you right now, they loved women, both of them, 100 percent, but they also went home with Joe every night. I never asked, because I don't care. You do your thing and I'll do mine. And it's not like Joe was putting handcuffs on them at the end of the night and making them go home with him. They went home to him. That's a fact, but I do know they liked women. I've seen John smile at women. Travis is the same. He's a young boy from California. He's a ladies' man.

PLAYBOY: Was Travis an animal lover? What was the appeal for him?

SAFFERY: I know he enjoyed being around the animals. He even helped with taking care of the babies; you can't say no to someone who did something like that, because that takes dedication. More important for Travis and Joe was what they got out of it. Travis was a young kid when he came to the park. When you throw a bunch of toys in front of a young kid, they'll do anything you ask. Same with John. John is young, and you throw the keys to the Mustang and here's a new four-wheeler—that's kind of the dynamic there. Again, I didn't care as long as it didn't affect animal care, and it never did.

PLAYBOY: What role did drugs play in all this?

SAFFERY: If you're asking if there were drugs on park—absolutely, man. Of course there was, but I stayed away from it. I'm not condoning that whatsoever, but it did play a role. This is real, and that's what their life was—just fun, drugs, party. Did it all over again the next day, and they were happy doing it, so it didn't bother me. Joe was as smart about it as he could be. It's the same as a rock star's lifestyle, with all the attention and all the finances. That's what they did.

PLAYBOY: There has been discussion on social media that you were misgendered by the show: A chryon identifies you as g"Kelci g'Saff" Saffery," and Rick Kirkham uses "her" in reference to you. Do you identify as part of the LGBTQ community?

SAFFERY: It's funny that it's come up, because I never thought about that. It's never been part of a conversation that I've ever had, but obviously it's out there, and it's a huge community. They've always had issues with fighting for their rights to anything. I don't want to dismiss them, but I just have never personally been a part of it. Not against it; it's just never been a part of my daily life.

I've obviously always lived as he, him and his. From the moment I was able to even be self-aware, it's never even come up, so it's literally the smallest part of this entire thing as far as concerns for me. People were saying, "They misgendered you, and they're not using your right pronouns." I genuinely didn't even see that. I was more concerned about telling my story.

PLAYBOY: Just to be specific, given the viral tweet about your identity, you don't identify as trans?

SAFFERY: Not at all. I actually had to do some research, because I'm very uneducated in that department. By definition, I am not even that, so even if I wanted to, I couldn't, because I've had zero work done. I've had nothing done. It's not something I don't want to talk about; it's just something I honestly up until this point have not.

"People were saying, 'They misgendered you.' I genuinely didn't even see that."

PLAYBOY: What is your relationship status right now?

SAFFERY: I am committed, and I have been committed, and she's wonderful. Honestly, I wouldn't have gotten through this time without her, so I'm glad she's there. It's been long-term, and it's always good to have a partner in crime, though she wasn't involved in the filming.

PLAYBOY: Have your children watched the show?

SAFFERY: So far they have not. My kids are 11, five and a teeny, tiny little baby. The oldest one has been asking to watch, and I'm not sure about it, just because there are things on there I wouldn't want any 11-year-old to see. At the same time, it's hard. This is a good parenting stumper for me, and we're still working through that. The other day we were walking through the store, and people were coming up to me and asking to take pictures. My oldest one was like, "Why? What's going on?" The more it affects them, the more I'm obviously going to have to let them into what's going on—but right now, I leave it surface-level with them.

PLAYBOY: So you now have a more traditional day job?

SAFFERY: I do. I just work at a warehouse right now, and it pays the bills. When I moved out here to Redlands, California earlier this year, I told myself, "I'm just going to start over." The reason I left Oklahoma was because, even though I left the park in 2018, it still followed me no matter where I went in that state. I just wanted to get away from it. Obviously, it's always on my mind. I miss those animals every day—every single day. It was such a big part of my life for almost 10 years. It consumed me, and I loved every second of it. But I was born and raised in Hawaii, so my only thought was, "I need to put my feet in the sand again."

It consumed me, and I loved every second of it. But I was born and raised in Hawaii, so my only thought was, "I need to put my feet in the sand again."

PLAYBOY: It feels appropriate that Joe was running for president in the same election that Trump won.

SAFFERY: He definitely had a Trump thing going on, so at that time it was the perfect storm as far as Joe running. It was just the best of the worst in that case. I try to avoid politics at all costs. The most political I've ever been is being in the military.

PLAYBOY: In a recent interview, the filmmakers refer to Joe as a racist. Did you deal with that in working with him?

SAFFERY: Yeah. Joe has a loud mouth. There's no denying that I've heard him say things I definitely don't agree with. When I mentioned things to him as far as "You can't say that," it made it worse. It's almost like he wants someone to tell him not to so he can go ahead and do it more. It's just a matter of standing up for what you know is right. If it's happening in front of me, which it has, it's a matter of correcting it immediately. If it's some kind of media stunt or something he's filming, the more you entice, the louder he's going to get. Joe definitely had a lot to say about a lot of people, and it wasn't always good. At the end of the day, his words are his responsibilities, and he needs to be accountable for them.

PLAYBOY: Just in talking with you, it's clear how passionate you are about animals. Some viewers expressed concern that not everyone involved with the show seemed to make the animals the top priority. Is that valid?

SAFFERY: That's the one thing the show lacked: showing how much we did on park, how much we interacted with those animals and how much we sacrificed for those animals. Some days we were working 14-, 15-hour days making sure the water was filled to the top and that there was a clean, dry, warm space for them to sleep in; during the winter, we had to go around and make sure all the temps were perfect. Then you're constantly worrying about that when you're at home, sleeping. "If I'm cold right now, then they've got to be cold right now." You were never off of taking care of animals.

With the number of employees that came through, there were some that literally came there for some money in their pocket or somewhere to stay. But at the heart of it were the diehard employees who were there 100 percent for the animals. That was something they failed to show in the documentary, and I can understand people's reactions to that. I've actually thought that myself on a daily basis: Am I doing enough? The feuds between Joe and Carole, and between Jeff Lowe and Joe, were put at the forefront of everything. The day that my mission with those animals on that park came to a screeching halt, that's when I left.

PLAYBOY: What's your take on the investigation into the plot to kill Carole Baskin that has landed Joe in prison?

SAFFERY: I heard about this entire thing while I was still on park, actually. Don't get me wrong—Joe has said "I want her dead" every day that I've known him. But it was always just in typical Joe fashion. He talks a lot. I never considered any of it to go any further than right there. When I heard about his arrest, I had already left the zoo. I was shocked, because it's like, "Holy smokes, it went that far." When I watched the documentary I realized why: They pushed for it. These people we work with in the animal industry obviously had a different agenda than I was aware, and I never even cared to be concerned with it. I was watching that part almost as a viewer right alongside you guys.

"That's the one thing the show lacked: **showing** how much we **did for** those animals."

PLAYBOY: In a recent interview from prison, Joe said he was sorry for some of the ways he's acted. Can he be redeemed?

SAFFERY: I would hope so. The draw for me, on paper, is that Joe mentions that he built this park in honor of his late brother, and that he promised him at the end of his life that he was going to bring these animals his brother dreamed of seeing in the wild. He was going to be able to do that for other people. That's beautiful, and that was part of the draw for me—to bring this dream to so many people who otherwise wouldn't be able to experience it. Because I'm one of those people. I hope he draws back to that at least, and that he remembers why he started it in the first place.

PLAYBOY: You were asked to be involved in the legal proceedings, and you opted against it. Was that a tough decision?

SAFFERY: It was not. When I disconnected from the park, I knew I did not want to be a part of any of it, and I stand by that. I actually didn't even want to be a part of the documentary. Their exact words were "This story's going to be told with or without you, and you have a hell of a story. You should be the one to tell it." The catch there for me was, "Man, I don't want anyone telling my story. I want it to be the real story." That is why I chose to participate in the documentary, and I'm very glad I did.

PLAYBOY: The sheriff has reopened the case involving the disappearance of Carole's late husband, Don Lewis, and some leads have been coming in. How do you feel about that?

SAFFERY: Honestly, I'm glad, because he left behind two daughters. They're adults, but there are two women out there—three, actually, if you include his ex-wife—and I feel they need answers. I would want answers if my father just disappeared.

PLAYBOY: A lot of people involved with the show seem to think Carole was involved in his death. Was that on your mind while you

were working there?

SAFFERY: No. It was honestly never, ever on my mind. Carole's a very different kind of person. She's not your average Carole walking around the street. Anything is possible, honestly, but I didn't know her personally. I had one direct interaction with her, but that's about it.

PLAYBOY: Is it tough to watch yourself on TV?

SAFFERY: It was, yes. It's always different, especially when you're watching with others. It made a difference that I was able to watch it by myself. I'll be honest: It was very entertaining for me. A lot of things that came up were like, Whoa. It was surreal to watch myself be a part of that madness.

PLAYBOY: What made you decide to join Cameo?

SAFFERY: Holy smokes, it's insane to me, for one, that anyone would want me to say anything to them. These are strangers, in reality. I don't know the last time I've actually had an interaction or a conversation with a perfect stranger. And then of course it's even crazier that people are actually sending in requests. Definitely nuts to me, man.

PLAYBOY: Any memorable requests so far?

SAFFERY: One was for a five-year-old's birthday; he watched the show and is a big fan. I have a five-year-old, and don't get me wrong, he's my biggest fan, but that's my kid. The part that hit home for me was that I'm affecting the lives of people and really we have nothing in common. I have nothing in common with this little five-year-old. His favorite animal is a tiger, and that was the commonality right there. I was that five-year-old at one point. My favorite animal was a tiger, and I couldn't imagine Steve Irwin sending me a video saying, "Hey, Saff, hope you're doing well today, man." That would have been amazing.

PLAYBOY: Do you keep in touch with anyone from the zoo?

SAFFERY: I chose to disconnect. Again, it was just part of wanting to leave this behind, so when I disconnected from the park, I disconnected from the animals and the people involved. I have not spoken to any of them since I left in 2018. But I'd definitely love to hear from John Reinke again, and a couple of other people. We'll see how that goes.

PLAYBOY: Everyone is talking about who would get cast in an eventual movie version. I know you told David Spade that he'd be a good fit for Joe. Have other names come to mind?

SAFFERY: I genuinely have looked at Joe multiple times and said, "You are the living version of Joe Dirt." I don't see anybody else. There is a big height difference, though. Joe's tall, and David's not.

PLAYBOY: Any thoughts about who could really capture your essence?

SAFFERY: I'm not sure. It's tough, because I've never looked at anyone and thought I looked similar to any of them. So if you're just going based off looks—as long as they have brown skin, right? I had someone tell me that the guy from Twilight should play me.

PLAYBOY: Taylor Lautner?

SAFFERY: Taylor Lautner, that's his name. I said, g"He's got too many hands, man."

"I genuinely have looked at **Joe multiple times** and said, 'You are the **living version** of Joe Dirt.'"

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